



## Droning On

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., leaves the floor of the Senate after his filibuster of the nomination of John Brennan to be CIA director on Capitol Hill in Washington, early Thursday morning, March 7, 2013. The Senate confirmed John Brennan to be CIA director later Thursday afternoon.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

## PRESSURED PENINSULA

EDITH M. LEDERER

HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The U.N. Security Council responded swiftly to North Korea's latest nuclear test by punishing the reclusive regime Thursday with



Yellow ribbons form the shape of the Korean peninsula at the Imjingak Pavilion near the border village of Panmunjom, which has separated the two Koreas since the Korean War.

(AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

tough, new sanctions targeting its economy and leadership, despite Pyongyang's threat of a pre-emptive nuclear strike on the United States.

The penalties came in a unanimous resolution drafted by the U.S. along with China, which is North Korea's main benefactor. Beijing said the focus now should be to "defuse the tensions" by restarting negotiations.

The resolution sent a powerful message to North Korea's new young leader, Kim Jong Un, that the international community condemns his defiance of Security Council bans on nuclear and ballistic tests and is prepared to take even tougher action if he continues flouting international obligations.

## After filibuster, Senate confirms Brennan for CIA

DONNA CASSATA  
RICHARD LARDNER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Senate confirmed John Brennan to be CIA director Thursday after the Obama administration bowed to demands from Republicans blocking the nomination and stated explicitly there are limits on the president's power to use drones against U.S. terror suspects on American soil.

The vote was 63-34 and came just hours after Republican Sen. Rand Paul of

Kentucky, a possible 2016 presidential candidate, held the floor past midnight in an old-style filibuster of the nomination to extract an answer from the administration. Still, Brennan won some GOP support. Thirteen Republicans voted with 49 Democrats and one independent to give Brennan, who has been President Barack Obama's top counterterrorism adviser, the top job at the nation's spy agency. He will replace Michael Morell, the CIA's deputy director

who has been acting director since David Petraeus resigned in November after acknowledging an affair with his biographer. The confirmation vote came moments after Democrats prevailed in a vote ending the filibuster, 81-16. In a series of fast-moving events, by Senate standards, Attorney General Eric Holder sent a one-paragraph letter to Paul, who had commanded the floor for nearly 13 hours on Wednesday and into Thursday. "It has come to my at-

tention that you have now asked an additional question: 'Does the president have the authority to use a weaponized drone to kill an American not engaged in combat on American soil?' Holder wrote Paul. "The answer to that question is no." That cleared the way. "We worked very hard on a constitutional question to get an answer from the president," Paul said after voting against Brennan.

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# Officials: Bin Laden spokesman caught in Jordan

**LARA JAKES**

**AP National Security Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Osama bin Laden's spokesman and son-in-law has been captured by the United States, officials said Thursday, in what a senior congressman called a "very significant victory" in the fight against al-Qaida. Sulaiman Abu Ghaith is ex-

pected to be in U.S. federal court in New York on Friday in an initial hearing to face terror charges, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information. The case marks a legal victory for the Obama administration, which has long

sought to charge senior al-Qaida suspects in American federal courts instead of military tribunals at the detention center at Guantanamo Bay.

Rep. Peter King, the former chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, credited the CIA and FBI with catching al-Qaida propagandist Abu

Ghaith in Jordan within the last week. He said the capture was confirmed to him by U.S. law enforcement officials.

A Jordanian security official confirmed that Abu Ghaith was handed over last week to U.S. law enforcement officials under both nations' extradition treaty. He declined to disclose other de-

tails and spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

"Definitely, one by one, we are getting the top echelons of al-Qaida," said King, a Republican. "I give the (Obama) administration credit for this: it's steady and it's unrelenting and it's very successful." □

## North Korea slammed with UN sanctions after test

**Continued from front**

"Taken together, these sanctions will bite, and bite hard," U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice said. "They increase North Korea's isolation and raise the cost to North Korea's leaders of defying the international

to the programs.

The resolution also targets North Korea's ruling elite by banning all nations from exporting expensive jewelry, yachts, luxury automobiles and race cars to the North. It also imposes new travel sanctions that would require countries to

conducted last month's nuclear test — the first since Kim took charge. Many countries, especially in the region, had hoped he would steer the country toward engagement and resolution of the dispute over its nuclear and missile programs. Instead,

the North's official Korean Central News Agency, which issued no comment after the vote. In the capital of Pyongyang, Army Gen. Kang Pyo Yong told a crowd of tens of thousands that North Korea is ready to fire long-range nuclear-armed missiles at

ment appeared to be the most specific open threat of a nuclear strike by any country against another. Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called the threat "absurd" and suicidal.

North Korea also has threatened to scrap the cease-fire that ended the 1950-53 Korean War. It has a formidable array of artillery near enough to the Demilitarized Zone to strike South Korean and American forces with little warning. The top U.S. envoy on North Korea, Glyn Davies, cautioned Pyongyang not to miscalculate, saying the U.S. will take necessary steps to defend itself and its allies, including South Korea, where it bases more than 30,000 U.S. forces.

"We take all North Korean threats seriously enough to ensure that we have the correct defense posture to deal with any contingencies that might arise," Davies told reporters. Rice said "the entire world stands united in our commitment to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and in our demand that North Korea comply with its international obligations."

China's U.N. Ambassador Li Baodong said the resolution reflects the determination of the international community to prevent nuclear proliferation, but he stressed that its adoption "is not enough."

"The top priority now is to defuse the tensions, bring down heat ... bring the situation back on the track of diplomacy, on negotiations," Li said. □



**Security Council members vote for tough new sanctions against North Korea for its latest nuclear test, during a meeting at U.N. headquarters Thursday, March 7, 2013. The unanimous vote by the U.N.'s most powerful body sparked a furious Pyongyang to threaten a nuclear strike against the United States.**

community."

The new sanctions came in response to North Korea's underground nuclear test on Feb. 12 and were the fourth set imposed by the U.N. since the country's first test in 2006. They are aimed at reining in Pyongyang's nuclear and missile development by requiring all countries to freeze financial transactions or services that could contribute

expel agents working for sanctioned North Korean companies. The success of the sanctions could depend on how well they are enforced by China, where most of the companies and banks that North Korea is believed to work with are based.

Tensions with North Korea have escalated since Pyongyang launched a rocket in December and

the North has escalated its threats.

Immediately before the Security Council vote, a spokesman for Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry said the North will exercise its right for "a pre-emptive nuclear attack to destroy the strongholds of the aggressors" because Washington is "set to light a fuse for a nuclear war." The statement was carried by

**(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)**

Washington, which "will be engulfed in a sea of fire." White House spokesman Jay Carney said the U.S. is "fully capable" of defending itself against a North Korea ballistic missile attack. Experts doubt that the North has mastered how to mount a nuclear warhead on a ballistic missile capable of reaching the mainland United States. The North Korean state-



# Obama presses charm effort to avoid shutdown

**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

President Barack Obama pressed on with his Republican charm offensive Thursday, holding a White House lunch with House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan in an effort to stave off a late March government shutdown.

Obama, who has been seen as not doing enough to court Republicans, is now trying to woo them to prevent a government shutdown and reverse \$85 billion in automatic across-the-board cuts that took effect last week.

The cuts were designed to be so crude and controversial that the Obama administration and a bitterly divided Congress would be forced to find a better way to cut the federal deficit.

When that didn't happen federal agencies were forced to chop the same rough percentage of their budgets, something economists warn could threaten the economic recovery.

The midday luncheon with Ryan followed the president's Wednesday night dinner with a dozen Republican senators.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said Obama found the dinner "very constructive and very pleasant."

Efforts have shifted to the Senate after House Republicans swiftly passed legislation to keep federal agencies running, while also easing some effects of the budget cuts. If the shutdown can be avoided, it could clear the way for lawmakers and Obama to at least discuss a broader budget agreement.

The looming shutting down is just the latest impasse between Obama and opposition Republicans who want to cut the U.S. deficit without raising revenues. Obama, however, has pressed for a mixed package of spending cuts and increased revenues.

"We don't have to agree on everything, we don't have to solve all of our differences to move forward on finding solutions to the challenges that we face,"

Carney said.

The president also plans to meet with the rank and file members of both parties in both houses next week — pointedly reaching out to

them instead of Republican leaders in Congress.

House Speaker John Boehner, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and other members of the Re-

publican leadership were left out of Wednesday's dinner with Obama.

Boehner on Thursday said Obama's recent outreach to congressional Repub-

licans is a "hopeful sign" that progress could be made in breaking the recent impasse over how to reduce the federal deficit. But he said the president will not get very far if he insists on raising taxes.

While the White House says the president's outreach is on issues that go beyond the current fiscal crises and include his push for gun safety measures and an immigration overhaul, the focus remains on keeping the government funded. And the billions of dollars in budget cuts that must be made by the end of the fiscal year Sept. 30 are a major challenge.

Democrats who control the Senate hope to extend flexibility in carrying out the spending cuts to departments other than defense and veterans affairs, which already are protected in the Republican legislation that passed in the House on Wednesday. □



President Barack Obama, joined by Vice President Joe Biden, members of women's organizations, law enforcement officials, and members of Congress, signs the Violence Against Women Act, Thursday, March 7, 2013, during a ceremony at the Interior Department in Washington.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

## Chavez body to be put on permanent display

**PAUL HAVEN**  
**Associated Press**

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** —

Hugo Chavez's body will be preserved and forever displayed inside a glass tomb at a military museum not far from the presidential palace from which he

ing head of state, said Chavez would first lie in state for "at least" another seven days at the military academy where he was brought Wednesday.

A state funeral will be held Friday attended by 33 heads of government, in-

resent the United States, which Chavez often portrayed as a great global evil even as he sent the country billions of dollars in oil each year.

Maduro said the ceremony would begin at 11 a.m., but did not say where.

He said the body would be held in a "crystal urn" at the Museum of the Revolution, a stone's throw from Miraflores presidential palace.

The announcement followed two emotional days in which Chavez's supporters compared him to Jesus Christ, and accused his national and international critics of subversion.

A sea of sobbing, heart-broken humanity jammed Venezuela's main military academy Thursday to see Chavez's body, some waiting 10 hours under the twinkling stars and the searing Caribbean sun to file past his coffin.

But even as his supporters attempted to immortalize the dead president, a country exhausted from round-the-clock mourning began to look toward the future. Some worried openly whether the nation's anointed leaders are up to the task of filling his shoes, and others said they were anxious for news on when elections will be held. □



Inflatable dolls in the likeness of Venezuela's late President Hugo Chavez called "El Intumbable," or roughly "One who cannot be toppled," stand where mourners wait to see Chavez's body lying in state in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, March 7, 2013.

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

ruled for 14 years, his successor announced Thursday in a Caribbean version of the treatment given Communist revolutionary leaders like Lenin, Mao and Ho Chi Minh.

Vice President Nicolas Maduro, Venezuela's act-

cluding Cuban President Raul Castro and Iranian leader Mahmud Ahmadinejad.

U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks, a New York Democrat, and former Rep. William Delahunt, a Democrat from Massachusetts, will rep-

"We have decided to prepare the body of our 'Comandante President,' to embalm it so that it remains open for all time for the people.

Just like Ho Chi Minh. Just like Lenin. Just like Mao Zedong," Maduro said.



# Sen. Carl Levin will not seek re-election in 2014

**KEN THOMAS**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The head of the Senate Armed Services Committee announced Thursday he will not seek re-election in 2014, saying he wants to concentrate on committee work and helping his home state of Michigan. Sen. Carl Levin, 78, is the sixth member of the Senate to announce his retirement, creating an open seat for Democrats in a state that has backed President Barack Obama twice but where Republi-

cans hold the governor's office.

Democrats, who control 55 seats in the 100-member Senate, have to defend open seats in West Virginia, Iowa and New Jersey in the aftermath of three other retirements and will try to hold on to 21 seats in next year's election.

Republicans, who have 45 seats, need to pick up six seats to take control of the Senate. They already hold a majority in the House.

Levin's announcement comes just days after he shepherded Defense Sec-

retary Chuck Hagel's nomination through a bruising Senate confirmation fight. The Armed Services chairman often found himself at odds with some of the newer Republicans on the committee, including freshman Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas. Levin pointedly pushed back when Cruz insinuated that Hagel had taken money from extreme or radical groups, and he defended the president's nominee. Levin, who entered the Senate in 1978, has served on the committee for nearly three de-



**Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich. speaks with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington after a weekly Democratic policy luncheon.**

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

acades and became chairman in 2007 after Demo-

crats regained the majority in the Senate. □

## After filibuster, US Senate confirms Brennan for CIA

**Continued from front**

"It may have been a little harder than we wish it had been, but in the end I think it was a good healthy debate for the country to finally get an answer that the Fifth Amendment applies to all Americans."

However, Paul's stand on the Brennan nomination and insistence that the Obama administration explain its controversial drone program exposed a deep split among Senate Republicans, pitting leader Mitch McConnell, libertarians and tea partiers against military hawks such as John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina.

The government's drone program and its use in the ongoing fight against terrorists were at the heart of the dispute.

Though Paul held the Senate floor for the late-night filibuster, about a dozen of his colleagues who share his views came, too, to take turns speaking for him and trading questions. McConnell, a fellow Kentuckian who faces re-election next year, congratulated him for his "tenacity and for his conviction."

McConnell said in Senate remarks on Thursday, "The United States military no more has the right to kill a U.S. citizen on U.S. soil who

is not a combatant with an armed, unmanned aerial vehicle than it does with an M-16."

Paul's filibuster echoed recent congressional debates about the government's authority in the anti-terror war and whether the United States can hold American terror suspects indefinitely and without charge. The disputes have created unusual coalitions as libertarians and liberals have sided against defense hawks.

The latest GOP split also underscored the current rift within the rank and file over budget cuts, with some tea partiers willing to reduce defense dollars to preserve tax cuts but longtime guardians of military spending fighting back.

During his talkathon, Paul had suggested the possibility that the government would have used hellfire missiles against anti-war activist Jane Fonda or an American sitting at a cafe. During the height of the Vietnam War, Fonda traveled to North Vietnam and was widely criticized by some in the U.S. for her appearances there.

McCain derided that notion of an attack against the actress and argued that Paul was unnecessarily making Americans fear that their government poses a danger. □

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## Bipartisan bill on 'straw' gun purchases clears senate panel

JENNIFER STEINHAUER

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**WASHINGTON** — In a possible harbinger of bipartisan support for a small piece of legislation to curb gun violence, the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday approved a measure that would make the practice of illegally buying a gun for someone else a felony, and increase penalties for the crime.

The measure, which addresses so-called straw purchasing, passed the committee by 11-7; the only Republican to vote in favor was Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa.

Grassley's nod on the measure, which already had two Republican co-sponsors, was significant because he is the most senior member of the committee. The panel includes 10 Democrats and eight Republicans.

Several Republicans spoke

out against the bill, including Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, who said the legisla-

tion seemed designed "to show we are doing something" but in the end would

not be effective in halting gun crimes.

The committee's meeting

it was not clear when the senators would return.

The committee is expected to vote on three other measures, including a controversial assault weapons ban, which has been championed by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. Citing support for her measure from law enforcement, medical and other groups, Feinstein, sounding frustrated, said, "And yet it's as if we have a minority insubstantial piece of legislation."

The committee is also set to consider the reauthorization of a program that provides matching grants for school safety improvements, as well as a measure that would greatly expand background checks

for gun buyers, with the goal of preventing sales to people with criminal records or a history of mental illness.

The main sponsor of the bill, Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.,

has run into trouble because he is seeking a Republican strongly supportive of gun rights to join him, and he has so far failed to find one.

Most gun-safety experts say they believe that straw purchasing and background check measures work in tandem.

A failure by Congress to pass more than a modified straw-purchasing bill would be a victory for the National Rifle Association, which opposes each measure. □



**Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) at a committee meeting on Capitol Hill, in Washington, March 7, 2013. The committee on Thursday approved a measure that would make the practice of illegally buying a gun for someone else a felony, and increase penalties for the crime.**

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

tion seemed designed "to show we are doing something" but in the end would

later ended abruptly, apparently to accommodate a classified briefing, and

## Sheriff sheds light on child hostage crisis

PHILLIP RAWLS

Associated Press

**MONTGOMERY, Alabama**

**(AP)** — An Alabama man who held a boy hostage in a bunker warned authorities some "very bad things" would happen if they didn't meet his demands, a sheriff said Thursday, shedding more light on the final moments of the standoff. Dale County Sheriff Wally Olson said Jimmy Lee Dykes had two homemade explosives devices and authorities were worried he would set them off and kill the then-5-year-old boy. Officers raided the bunker Feb. 4 after a weeklong standoff and shot Dykes to death. The boy was rescued unharmed. Dykes kidnapped the boy off a school bus Jan. 29 after shooting and killing the driver. Olson said investigators still weren't sure of Dykes' motive.

"He kept saying he had a story that was very important to him and that he wanted to get out his story. But we've never been able to find out exactly what his story was. He would never really give us any insights

into that," said Olson, who spoke to reporters after he gave a speech on gun legislation to lawmakers.

Investigators were reviewing writings found on Dykes' property to see if they offered any explanation into why he kidnapped the boy off a school bus Jan. 29, the sheriff said.

Dykes killed bus driver Charles Poland and took the child to an underground bunker near his mobile home. He had two explosive devices. One was set off in a PVC pipe but didn't harm anyone because authorities covered it with sandbags. The other device was more threatening, the sheriff said.

"If he had detonated that device, it would have killed him," Olson said of the boy. "We felt like his life was definitely in harm's way."

Dykes had been planning the event for weeks and became friendly with the bus driver, even clearing out a place close to his property where Poland could turn the bus around on the dead-end street.

Officers communicated

with Dykes from the beginning by using the PVC pipe that led to the bunker. The sheriff said Dykes initially appeared focused on the child's safety, but that changed as the days passed and negotiations deteriorated.

He said Dykes gave officers a deadline to do things or else "some bad things would happen." The sheriff wouldn't say what those demands were.

Authorities, including the FBI and Alabama Bureau of Investigation, had developed different plans about what to do if that moment arrived, and they decided to act, he said.

The 40-year-old sheriff, who has two young daughters, said he handled the tense days with his children always on his mind.

"I don't want to look like a big boob and start crying. Now I do love my children, and I could only imagine what it would be like if that would have been my child. That's why I tried to do everything possible I could to make sure we had a safe return," he said. □

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## Authorities seeks answers in lion attack

**G. WOZNIACKA  
TRACIE CONE  
Associated Press**

**DUNLAP, California (AP)** — The intern fatally mauled by a lion at a Central California exotic animal park

before but told him she would not be allowed to go in the lion cage. On Wednesday, deputies found the woman severely injured and still lying inside the male African lion's enclosure.



This undated photo provided by Paul Hanson shows his sister, Dianna Hanson. Dianna Hanson, a 24-year-old intern at the Cat Haven in Dunlap, Calif., was mauled to death by a lion at the exotic animal park on Wednesday, March 6, 2013.

(AP Photo/Paul Hanson)

loved lions and tigers since childhood, "was absolutely fearless" around them and hoped to work at a zoo after her six-month internship, her father said late Wednesday.

"She was at ease with those big cats," Paul Hanson, a Seattle-area attorney, said of his daughter, Dianna Hanson, 24. "They liked her."

Hanson told The Associated Press that he dropped his daughter off Jan. 2 at Cat Haven, about 45 miles (70 kilometers) east of Fresno. "It was just a dream job for her," he said, adding that she gave him a little tour and showed him the lion Cous Cous, which authorities said killed her.

Hanson said his daughter had worked with big cats

closure with the lion nearby, said sheriff's Lt. Bob Miller. Another park worker couldn't lure the lion into another pen, so deputies shot and killed it to safely reach the wounded woman, but she died at the scene, he said.

Cat Haven founder and executive director Dale Anderson cried as he read a one-sentence statement about the fatal mauling at the private zoo he has operated since 1993.

Thursday, Anderson returned to the zoo, driving through a gate surrounding the facility.

"I feel awful," he said.

Investigators were trying to determine why the intern was inside the enclosure and what might have provoked the attack, sheriff's

Sgt. Greg Collins said. The facility is normally closed on Wednesdays, and only one other worker was there when the mauling happened, he said.

Authorities are not pursuing a criminal investigation because all leads indicate Hanson's death was the result of an accident, sheriff's Lt. Robert Miller said Thursday. California Department of Fish and Wildlife spokeswoman Janice Mackey said she was unaware if any state regulations would prohibit an employee from entering an exotic animal's enclosure. Dianna Hanson's older brother, Paul Hanson, said the family knew the line of work she chose was risky, but said his sister had followed her passion to care for animals since a young age. She grew up loving the family's two cats, volunteered at a local animal shelter and hoped to ultimately get certified to pursue a career in wildlife conservation or work at a zoo. "Anybody that encountered Dianna couldn't help being enraptured with her and with her enthusiasm," he said in an interview Thursday. "She knew the risks and we knew the risks, but that was her passion. You always wondered when she was going to work, but the risks were part of that."

The lion, Cous Cous, a 4-year-old male, had been raised at Cat Haven since it was a cub, said Tanya Osegueda, a spokeswoman for Project Survival, the nonprofit that operates the animal park. □

## Report: At least 10 hurt in U.S. steel plant explosion



An injured worker sits outside the American Steel plant in Granite City, Ill., Thursday, March 7, 2013, where an explosion injured at least 10 people, three critically.

(AP Photo/KMOV-TV)

**JIM SALTER  
JIM SUHR  
Associated Press**

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — At least 10 people were injured, three critically, in an explosion Thursday at a U.S. steel castings plant, officials said.

The blast happened in the morning in the cleaning-and-finishing department at the American Steel Foundries plant in Illinois. Roughly 800 people work at the plant where the company produces railcar undercarriages and related components, said Mike Right, the United Steelworkers union's health, safety and environment chief. Seven workers were treated for smoke inhalation at the Gateway Regional Medical Center, while three others in critical condition were flown by helicopter to other hospitals for treatment, Gateway spokeswoman Kate Allaria said.

Two of them were treated at Mercy Hospital in Creve Coeur, where spokeswoman Bethany Pope said she could not discuss their

medical conditions. It was not clear where the other worker was being treated. Federal workplace safety officials are investigating the cause of the blast. Calls and emails to the business went unanswered Thursday.

Robert Lott, a worker at the plant and president of the United Steelworkers Local 1063, told the Belleville News-Democrat that at least two of those injured may have suffered broken legs and internal injuries. He said he believed the blast was caused by a gas leak.

"I could see flames, initially, and then the visibility went down to zero from the dust that fell from the rafters," Lott said.

Mike Right said the union was sending an investigator to the Granite City plant "to make sure we learn the lessons and really understand what happened."

"At this point everything is pretty sketchy, and we really don't like to comment on causes until we have them tied down," he said. □



# US household wealth regains pre-recession peak

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — It took 5½ years.

Surging stock prices and steady home-price increases have finally allowed Americans to regain the \$16 trillion in wealth they lost to the Great Recession. The gains are helping support the economy and could lead to further

first quarter," said Aaron Smith, senior economist at Moody's Analytics.

Household wealth, or net worth, reflects the value of assets like homes, stocks and bank accounts minus debts like mortgages and credit cards. National home prices have extended their gains this year. And the Standard & Poor's 500 index, a broad

overall do.

The Dow Jones industrial average has just set a record high, and roughly 80 percent of stocks are held by the richest 10 percent of households.

And for the past five years, middle-class Americans have sold stocks and missed out on much of the rebound.

In the October-December quarter, Americans dumped nearly \$466 billion in stocks and bought \$229 billion in bonds, the Fed's report showed.

Homes accounted for two-thirds of middle-class assets before the recession, estimates economist Edward Wolff of New York University. Among all U.S. households, they accounted for only one-third of assets. And national home values

remain about 30 percent below their peak.

Still, economists expect the regained wealth to contribute further to the economic recovery.

"It should boost consumption, because as people feel wealthier they tend to spend more," Saporta said. "It doesn't necessarily mean that households will go on a spending spree."

Carl Riccadonna, an economist at Deutsche Bank, is a bit more optimistic.

He thinks higher home values and some easing of credit requirements by banks will lead Americans to cash out more of their home equity.

Riccadonna forecasts that the increase in home prices alone could boost consumer spending this year by roughly \$110 billion —

nearly offsetting the \$120 billion cost of the Social Security tax increase.

The Fed report also showed that Americans are increasingly taking on more debt, enabling them to spend more.

In the October-December quarter, household debt rose 2.4 percent. It was the sharpest gain in nearly five years.

And it marked a shift from when the recession ended in June 2009, after which many households focused on repaying debt rather than borrowing. Economists increasingly think that process, known as "deleveraging," is ending.

"The drag from deleveraging is now a thing of the past," Smith said. "Household credit is once again supporting growth." □



A for sale sign hangs outside a home in Glenview, Ill. Average U.S. rates on fixed mortgages were little changed the first week of March, hovering near historic lows. The lowest mortgage rates in decades have boosted home sales and helped the market rebound. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

spending and growth.

The regained wealth — most of it from stock-market gains — has been flowing mainly to richer Americans. By contrast, middle class wealth is mostly in the form of home equity, which has risen much less.

Household wealth amounted to \$66.1 trillion at the end of 2012, the Federal Reserve said Thursday. That was \$1.2 trillion more than three months earlier and 98 percent of the pre-recession peak.

Further increases in stock and home prices this year mean that Americans' net worth has since topped the pre-recession peak of \$67.4 trillion, private economists say. Wealth had bottomed at \$51.4 trillion in early 2009.

"It's all but certain that we surpassed that peak in the

gauge of the stock market, has surged 8 percent since Jan. 1.

Some economists caution that the recovered wealth might spur less consumer spending than it did before the recession.

Dana Saporta, an economist at Credit Suisse, notes that the value of home equity Americans are cashing out has fallen 90 percent in six years.

And since the housing bust, when home values fell broadly for the first time in decades, many homeowners are skeptical that higher prices will last, Saporta said. They won't necessarily spend more as a result. The upper-income Americans who have benefited most from the nation's recovered wealth don't spend as much of their money as Americans



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# Power Lunch: A food court called Capitol Hill

JENNIFER STEINHAUER

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**WASHINGTON** – All American cities have their lunch spots where deals are sealed and careers are upgraded over Cobb salads and tuna rolls. On Capitol Hill, the powerful eat in.

He who can leave for an extensive lunch is not writing a bill, strong-arming a senator, hectoring a committee witness or doing a spot on Fox Business Network. Let the low-level staff members trek to Seventh Street for pizza. Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the majority leader, has his lunch (usually chicken) brought in from the Senate dining room. (That's a double power play: The dining room is for senators only, yet a staff member carts food to him.)

And so the sprawling Capitol complex is both our nation's legislative center and its food court. While House members often repair to their partisan clubs for lunch, coffee and post-vote martinis, and senators can sometimes be found eating and drinking at the Monocle restaurant,

which has fed generations of them, lawmakers are largely too busy to eat out. For them and their staffs – and the tour guides, reporters, art restoration experts, hairdressers and others among the cast of thousands who work on Capitol Hill – lunch is generally a quick in-house affair. There are more than a dozen restaurants, cafes, sandwich bars and formal dining rooms on the Hill – most of them prosaic, some a little weird and almost all good for people watching, when you can get in. (The House and Senate dining rooms are reserved for members and their guests; many others are open to the public, but those in the Capitol building require an escort from someone who works there.)

Where one eats here is driven mostly by convenience, but also a bit by sociology, with food quality a rare consideration.

"The Capitol is sort of like a little town," said Don Ritchie, the Senate historian, noting its collection of hair salons, gift shops and post offices. "Food has al-

ways been part of that."

Most of the eating spots are run by Restaurant Associates, the New York-based company, and much of the fare has mild Southern influences like barbecue and stewed greens, perhaps reflecting the District of Columbia's location south of the Mason-Dixon Line and its large

wine. "Oysters were abundant in the Chesapeake," Ritchie said. "They were easy to transport and an affordable delicacy." Long before buzzers signaled to lawmakers that it was time to vote, pages were dispatched there to pull senators away from their boozy snacks.

Also on the Senate side

jewels in the Capitol culinary complex. One is Cups & Company, a New York Korean-deli-style joint in the Russell Senate Office Building, which has been operated by Charles and Kathy Chung for more than a dozen years. Their excellent coffee (a rare commodity here) and demon-like efficiency with their hot



The cafeteria in the Longworth House Office Building, in Washington. There are more than a dozen restaurants, cafes, sandwich bars and formal dining rooms on Capitol Hill, all good for people-watching, when you can get in. (Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)



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African-American population. It takes time to master the offerings, but for every overcooked hamburger and depressing excuse for pizza, there is the odd sublime slice of coconut cream pie, the perfectly cooked salad-bar brussels sprouts, the daring chicken tikka masala.

Still, the real pleasure, for those who care about such things, is observing, and listening to the confluence of policy and politics that dribbles into the lunch break. It's a place of salad and sequester. Standing in line to pay for your greens, you will hear people speaking in bill numbers, or gossiping about which member from a Southern state is really mean to her staff.

The history of dining in the Capitol mirrors the culinary and social history of the District. In the 19th century, senators ate at the Hole in the Wall, near the Old Senate chamber, where they lunched on oysters and

was one of the first Capitol Hill restaurants to be integrated; in 1947, when the first black reporter was admitted to the press gallery, he joined the white reporters for lunch in their cafeteria. Contemporary politics still infuse the restaurants. In 2003, displeased with the French government's opposition to the Bush administration's Iraq policies, the chairman of the House Administration Committee ordered that french fries be renamed freedom fries. This did not last.

When Republicans took over the House in 2010, one of their first moves was to end a composting program started by the former speaker Nancy Pelosi, citing its high cost. The return of plastic foam and the jettisoning of non-compostable forks, which Republicans insisted could not stand up to aggressive salad fixings, presaged the next two years of deep divide. There are two crown

sandwiches are Washington's most convincing arguments for private enterprise on government property. Secretary of State John Kerry, on his last day as a senator, stopped at Cups for lunch.

"Everything is made fresh here every day," Kathy Chung said. "Nothing is processed. That is what makes us different."

While its food is less exciting, the cafeteria in the Library of Congress is the best-kept secret. There, vistas of the Potomac River and a good swath of the city can be viewed from a window seat on the sixth floor of the Madison Building.

It's a trek to get there, but a bowl of chili or a slice of pedestrian pumpkin pie nibbled as you peer out into the foggy city provides a bracing reminder of the rest of the world just outside, which lives by the rules set inside this impenetrable sprawl. □



# Vietnam cardinal arrives, last 1 in for conclave

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

**VATICAN CITY (AP)** — The last cardinal who will participate in the conclave to elect the next pope arrived in Rome on Thursday, meaning a date can now be set for the election. One U.S. cardinal said a decision on the start date is expected soon.

Some American and other cardinals had said they wanted to continue the pre-conclave meetings that have been going on all week for as long as it takes so they can discern who among them has the stuff to be pope and discuss the problems of the church. Some Vatican-based cardinals, defensive about criticisms of the Vatican's internal governance that have been aired recently, seemed to want to get on with the vote arguing there's no reason to delay. "Hopefully it will be a short conclave and start very soon," Vatican-based German Cardinal Paul Josef Cordes was quoted Wednesday as telling the German daily Bild. "I would compare it with a visit to the dentist — you want to get everything over with quickly." Thursday afternoon, U.S. Cardinal Roger Mahony tweeted that the discussions were "reaching a conclusion." "Setting of date for conclave nearing. Mood of excitement prevails among Cardinals," he wrote.

Once the conclave starts, there is very little time for discussion. Cardinals take two votes in the morning, two votes in the afternoon

to setting the deadline for when pre-conclave deliberations will finish. These discussions are designed to give cardinals a

for example, cardinals received a briefing on the Holy See's finances amid questions about the administration of the Vatican bureaucracy and continued suspicions about the Vatican bank. As such, "it seems very normal and very wise" to wait to set the conclave date until all cardinals are confident that they're nearing an end to their deliberations, said the Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi. The arrival in Rome on Thursday of Vietnamese Cardinal Jean-Baptiste Pham Minh Man, however, sig-

naled at least that a vote could be taken on a start date now that all 115 cardinal electors are in place. He entered the Vatican auditorium for Thursday's afternoon session without speaking to reporters. No vote on a conclave date was taken, Lombardi said. For the fourth day in a row, discussions on Thursday included questions about the Holy See's administration and its relationships with dioceses around the world amid complaints that the Holy See doesn't communicate well, internally or externally. □



Vietnamese Cardinal Jean-Baptiste Pham Minh Man arrives for a meeting, at the Vatican, Thursday, March 7, 2013.

(AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

— all of them conducted in silent prayer, not chatter, amid the frescoes of the Sistine Chapel. As a result, setting the date for the start of the conclave is akin

chance to get to know one another better and dive into the problems confronting the church and who among them is best suited to fix them. On Thursday,



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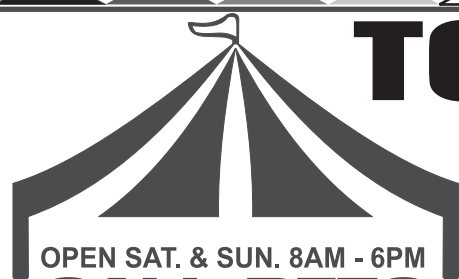
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## Egypt's police protest against Muslim Brotherhood

**AYA BATRAWY**  
**Associated Press**

**CAIRO (AP)** — Thousands of low-ranking policemen on strike across Egypt on Thursday refused orders to work and protested what they claim is the politicization of the force in favor of the president's Muslim Brotherhood party.

The strike, in its fourth day, is a rare show of defiance by policemen against their superiors. It threatens to unravel a security force already weakened by two years of unrest following the ouster of longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

For decades, Egypt's police aggressively targeted the Brotherhood and other Islamist groups that were once outlawed. Policemen say they are now being forced to confront protest-

ers angry with Mubarak's successor, President Mohammed Morsi, and his Brotherhood supporters.

They also are angry that they can be tried in military courts and complain that current laws do not protect

The ministry, which oversees police in Egypt, relies on low-ranking policemen to protect government

areas, and several have been killed in the anti-government protests.

In Cairo, dozens of policemen blocked the entrance to one of the city's main police stations and expressed anger at Morsi's policies. Others held a sit-in outside Morsi's house in his hometown of Zagazig, northeast of the capital.

South of the capital, in Assiut and Luxor, policemen protested what they say is new Interior Minister Mohammed Ibrahim's attempts to use the force to protect the Brotherhood.

Security officials in the Interior Ministry said that the former interior minister refused orders to direct police against anti-Morsi protesters outside the presidential palace in Cairo in December. They say that the Brotherhood was also enraged that police did not protect the group's offices that month from being torched by Egyptians angry with Morsi's handling of the drafting of the constitution. □



**An Egyptian woman runs for cover as riot police throw stones during clashes near a state security building in Port Said, Egypt, Thursday, March 7, 2013.**  
(AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

them when they carry out their duties.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement Thursday that it stands at equal distance from all parties, and that the ministry is being objective in its duties.

buildings, particularly in the face of angry protests in Suez Canal cities and in areas north of Cairo in the Nile Delta region. Hundreds of policemen have been wounded in the past six weeks of unrest in those

## Libya: Gunmen storm private TV office

**CAIRO (AP)** — Dozens of Libyan militiamen stormed the headquarters of a private TV network on Thursday in Tripoli, looting and smashing equipment before abducting staffers, the country's official news agency and witnesses said.

The agency LANA said some staffers were released following the attack on Al-Assama TV network, but that the militia was still holding the network top two managers.

It's unclear what prompted the attack.

Suliman Abu-Azza, a news editor at the station, said the militiamen locked the staffers in a room,

torched offices and then led at least six, including the network's owner, manager and employees, to vehicles and took them to an undisclosed location. Later in the day, they freed all except Joumaa al-Usta, a wealthy businessman who owns the network, and the station's executive manager.

The network is affiliated with Mahmoud Jibril, the country's former war-time prime minister and western-minded political figure leading the largest coalition in parliament.

Mahmoud Shammam, who runs another TV network, told the official Libya TV that he tried unsuccessful-

fully to reach government ministers and security officials to get their help.

Two years after the revolution that ousted and killed Libya's dictator Moammar Gadhafi, militiamen have filled in security vacuum, operating with impunity with the state relying on them as parallel security forces.

It is not known which militia was behind the assault, but Abu-Azza suspected the attack could have been carried out in retaliation to the network's heavy criticism of the unruly militia and its coverage of assaults against the country's National General Congress. □

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## Draghi: Do more to promote jobs, growth in EU

**DAVID McHUGH**  
AP Business Writer

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)**

— European Central Bank President Mario Draghi is urging indebted governments to move beyond spending cuts and tax hikes and introduce reforms that would boost growth and reduce the “tragedy” of unemployment.

Speaking after the bank’s monthly policy-setting meeting, Draghi praised the progress made by the 17 European Union countries that use the euro in controlling their deficits in an effort to dig out of the region’s 3 ½-year economic and financial crisis.

Governments cut the average budget shortfall to 3.5 percent of economic output last year from 4.2 percent the year before.

But government cutbacks

have plunged the eurozone economy into recession and sent its jobless rate to 11.9 percent, highest since the euro was launched in 1999. The ECB lowered its economic forecast for this year Thursday, saying the region’s economy would shrink 0.5 percent instead of by the 0.3 percent projected in December.

Draghi went out of his way to urge steps for growth, such as shaking up hiring rules and simplifying regulations affecting the products companies make.

The ECB president said that austerity must be followed up with a “comprehensive structural reform agenda” to encourage growth and job creation in countries that have left large numbers of 20-somethings on the margins of

their stagnant economies. In Greece, the unemployment rate for the under-25s is 59 percent while in Spain it is 55 percent.

He said it was “of particular importance” to tackle youth joblessness. Unem-

ployment is “a tragedy, and youth unemployment is an even bigger tragedy,” Draghi added. Economists say that ultimately growth is the only way to reduce the large debt burdens weighing on eurozone governments such as Spain and Italy, and the three countries that have needed bailout loans from other countries: Greece, Ireland, and Por-

comparison.

Analyst Christian Schulz at Berenberg Bank said the ECB was pushing governments to take action rather than offering help itself. “ECB inaction keeps the pressure on governments to continue structural reforms to improve growth prospects,” he said.

Reforms such as making it easier to lay off established workers, so that companies will be more willing to hire young people when times are good, help governments as they don’t involve an increase in spending. But the measures often run into opposition from entrenched interest groups. For example, Italy’s Prime Minister Mario Monti could pass only a watered-down reform of rules that force companies to take back laid off workers if a court rules against them — a key deterrent to more hiring.

Draghi’s comments come as Europe’s leaders appear to be reconsidering harsh austerity as a way of combating the crisis. □



**President of the European Central Bank, ECB, Mario Draghi speaks during a news conference at their headquarters in Frankfurt, central Germany, Thursday, March 7, 2013.**

(AP Photo/dpa, Arne Dedert)

## Italy protests Bridgestone tire plant closure as unfair

**MILAN (AP)** — Italy’s labor minister is criticizing a decision by the Bridgestone tire company to close a plant in southern Italy as “serious and without reason.”

Corrado Passera protested in a letter to the Japanese company, released by the labor ministry Thursday, that the company had failed to work with authorities to find another solution.

Bridgestone Corporation’s European division an-

nounced Tuesday the closure of the passenger car tire production plant near Bari by early next year, citing a slump in demand due to declining auto sales in Europe. The company said demand for tires produced at the plant was down 13 percent last year from 2011, with no prospect for returning to earlier volumes before 2020. The plant employs 950 workers to produce 21,000 tires a day. □

ployment is “a tragedy, and youth unemployment is an even bigger tragedy,” Draghi added.

Economists say that ultimately growth is the only

tugal. Growth increases tax revenues as more people get jobs and businesses make more profits. Meanwhile, a bigger economy makes the debt smaller by

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## Puerto Rico gov: Give illegal migrants driver's licenses

**DANICA COTO**  
**Associated Press**

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**

— The governor of Puerto Rico on Thursday endorsed a proposal that would allow illegal immigrants living in the U.S. territory to apply for a provisional driver's license.

The license would be granted only to those who have lived in Puerto Rico for a year and have either a passport or an embassy-issued document proving their identity.

If approved, Puerto Rico would join a handful of U.S. states that grant driver's licenses to illegal immigrants.

Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla announced he would submit his proposal to the island's legislature, saying that Puerto Rico should stop ignoring its immigrant communities.

"Their contributions to the country and respect for human dignity make them worthy of certain fundamental protections on behalf of the state," Garcia said.

An estimated more than 150,000 immigrants from the Dominican Republic live in Puerto Rico, the majority in the capital of San Juan, along with thousands of other Caribbean immigrants, mostly from Haiti.

Human rights groups applauded the governor's announcement, saying it was long overdue.

"All immigrants are going to benefit from this," said Jose Rodriguez, president of the Dominican Committee for Human Rights.

Rodriguez said the provisional licenses would also boost the island's struggling economy.

"It's going to create millions of dollars in revenue ... when all these immigrants get their license, obtain their car registration and buy a car," he said.

Garcia's party controls both the island's House and Senate, and legislators are expected to approve the proposal. □

## South Africa: Former Pistorius detective Botha quits force

**C. TORCHIA**  
**Associated Press**

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)**

The former lead detective in South Africa's investigation of the murder case against Olympic athlete Oscar Pistorius has resigned from the police force, police said Thursday.

The decision by detective Hilton Botha to quit followed criticism for his bungling of the investigation into Pistorius' shooting of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Feb. 14, as well as the revelation that he faced attempted murder charges for a 2011 case in which he fired at a vehicle.

The police force as a whole came under scrutiny for the initial decision to assign Botha, a relatively junior officer, to a high-profile case involving an international celebrity. South African police practices came under more intense criticism last week after a taxi driver from Mozambique was dragged from a police vehicle and later died in detention east of Johannesburg.

Brig. Neville Malila, a police

spokesman, said Botha voluntarily applied to leave the service, and said police would not divulge his reasons.

"It was his initiative. He applied for the resignation and the exit interviews were conducted with him," Malila said. "He still main-

at his home in Pretoria, the South African capital.

He walked through the crime scene without wearing protective shoe covers, potentially contaminating the area; gave conflicting estimates of the distance of the house of a potential witness; and was criti-



**Investigating officer Hilton Botha, sits inside the court witness box during the Oscar Pistorius bail hearing at the magistrate court in Pretoria, South Africa. Botha has resigned from the South African police force, police said Thursday.**

**(AP Photo/Themba Hadebe)**

tained that he wanted to leave the service and we honored his wish."

Botha made several errors as the lead investigator after the double-amputee athlete shot Steenkamp

cized by the judge in the athlete's bail hearing for failing to secure data from cellular telephones found at the scene of the shooting. It later emerged that Botha faced attempted

murder charges for a case in which he and two other officers fired on a vehicle in an attempt to make it stop. His superiors then removed him from the Pistorius case, replacing him with a senior investigator, police Lt. Gen. Vinesh Moonoo.

Rudolph Zinn, a former detective who lectures at the School of Criminal Justice and Police Practice at the University of South Africa, said it should have been standard procedure to assign a top official from the beginning of the Pistorius case. "A senior person should be appointed as soon as possible to take over the investigation's management to make sure that the crime scene is processed accordingly," he said in an interview with The Associated Press last month. Pistorius, who was freed on bail, says he mistook Steenkamp for an intruder when he shot her through a locked bathroom door. Prosecutors believe the shooting happened after the couple got into an argument. The Olympian's next court appearance is scheduled for June 4. Also Thursday, a South African public relations company said it will no longer represent Pistorius. Janine Hills, the head of Vuma Reputation Management, said the Pistorius family is in a "stronger position" to handle media issues, but that her company will continue to provide guidance. She said in an email to the AP that a "handover process" had been under way since March 1. □

## Haiti's ex-president Preval testifies

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**

— Former Haitian President Rene Preval testified behind closed doors Thursday as authorities try to revive the investigation into the

tators or journalists could see him enter the court and he left several hours later, declining to discuss what he told the investigative judge seeking to build

and from 2006-2011, then headed to the Venezuelan Embassy to pay his respects following the death of President Hugo Chavez. Preval was serving the first of his two terms as president when the crusading journalist was shot to death outside Radio Haiti. Preval and Dominique were friends and political allies who opposed the Duvalier and military dictatorships. Dominique was 69 at the time of his death and his slaying was the subject of The Agronomist, a 2003 documentary by Jonathan Demme.

Preval was testifying Thursday in the same courthouse where former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier is facing criminal charges over his 15-year rule. A hearing was scheduled for Thursday in the Duvalier case but it was not clear whether the former dictator would show up. □



**Former Haitian President Rene Preval speaks with journalists after attending a closed hearing at the courthouse in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Thursday, March 7, 2013.**

**(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)**

long-unsolved killing of the country's most celebrated journalist.

Preval showed up early in the morning before spec-







## NARSC "Raising the Bar" at the Westin Aruba Resort!



**PALM BEACH** – This week, the National Association of Reinforcing Steel Contractors (NARSC) is holding their annual Winter Meeting in Aruba at host resort, the Westin Resort & Casino Aruba. This is a repeat visit for the association, choosing Aruba and the property now branded Westin in 1994, 1999, 2005, and 2009. NARSC, established in 1969, is a national trade association representing leading reinforcing steel and post-tensioning contractors throughout the United States and Canada. The association was founded by contractors to improve their position as placers, erectors, and fabricators within the construction industry. And while the association is totally voluntary, its members are united in their commitment to provide quality service and products to their customers. The annual Winter Meeting consists of informative seminars with guest speakers, industry updates, and discussion forums and panels held in the ballrooms and meeting spaces at Westin. But it's not all business; some fun-in-the-sun during the week has been enjoyed by all! Pictured here are NARSC Winter Meeting attendees enjoying a cocktail party on Wednesday evening held in the resort's Starwood Gallery. □





## Loyal Visitors honored by ATA at the Caribbean Palm Village

**NOORD** - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice couples whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Caribbean Palm Village, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token

of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Charlie and Katy McCaffrey from Mayo, Maryland, and Bernard and Barbara Shooner from Somers Connecticut. Both couples love the Island very much and are loyal members of the Caribbean Palm Village, and

they love the friendly people of Aruba, the weather, beaches, restaurants, and Casinos, and Aruba feels like a second home and the people are like a family to them. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Mislady Fingal representing the Caribbean Palm Village. □



## On International Woman's Day: A VISION OF TRUTH

**8 of March, what is the significance of this day?**

We can use it as a day of inner reflection and ask our self the questions:

- How do I really think and feel about my role as a woman?
- How does society looks at my role of a woman?

Most of those answers we already know, but have we ever asked our self the question what Gods vision is about my role as a women?

In fact, God's vision is totally different than ours.

As our Supreme Father, He "looks" at us as we really are, pure beings filled with all godly qualities.

As complete beings we play different roles, so He doesn't experience us as male and female, but as His children who are beings of spiritual light, filled with peace, love, power and happiness and all other qualities we need in our daily life.

So by knowing this, we can only respect one another for the role we play, without feelings of being more or less than the other, everyone in their role of male or female is equally important.

However, at this special time in history, a time of great transformation, God needs those who play a female role to help Him in this task.

Women have developed certain qualities as tolerance, patience, stillness, intuition, love, endurance more naturally because of their role.

These are the sustaining qualities and those qualities are very much needed to bring back the balance in the world. We need both, our head and heart.

God's vision is the vision of Truth through which He "sees" all of us as complete, so for Him each one who has the same vision as He has, is able to help Him to transform this world that is now full of sorrow in a world of truth, peace and happiness.

-Message of Brahma Kumaris Aruba. □

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## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET OF MADURO & CURIEL'S BANK N.V. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2012

(All amounts are expressed in thousands of Antillean Guilders)	2012	2011
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and due from banks	1,681,249	1,631,985
Investment securities	243,926	302,019
Loans and advances to customers	3,851,159	3,646,337
Investment in associate companies	770	13,642
Associate company held for sale	12,972	-
Bank premises and equipment	167,173	148,462
Customers' liability under acceptances	7,692	13,626
Other assets	78,644	50,794
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>6,043,585</b>	<b>5,806,865</b>
<b>Liabilities and equity</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Customers' deposits	5,135,810	4,946,880
Due to other banks	32,666	54,734
Acceptances outstanding	7,692	13,626
Deferred tax liability	6,120	5,948
Profit tax payable	36,319	31,730
Accrued interest payable	16,429	16,852
Provisions	59,562	53,496
Other liabilities	85,778	85,096
	<b>5,380,376</b>	<b>5,208,362</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Issued capital	51,000	51,000
Fair value reserve investments	7,679	10,628
Other reserves	190,968	184,895
Retained earnings	402,648	341,926
	<b>652,295</b>	<b>588,449</b>
Minority interest	10,914	10,054
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>6,043,585</b>	<b>5,806,865</b>

## CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT OF MADURO & CURIEL'S BANK N.V. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2012

(All amounts are expressed in thousands of Antillean Guilders)	2012	2011
Interest income	309,628	305,942
Interest expense	19,777	20,696
<b>Net interest income</b>	<b>289,851</b>	<b>285,246</b>
Fee and commission income	157,865	147,860
Fee and commission expenses	43,569	40,123
<b>Net fee and commission income</b>	<b>114,296</b>	<b>107,737</b>
Income from foreign exchange transactions	48,327	48,762
Income from investment securities	7,213	6,965
<b>Operating income</b>	<b>459,687</b>	<b>448,710</b>
Salaries and other employee expenses	183,975	187,843
Net impairment on loans and advances	11,032	6,769
Other operating expenses	86,857	82,544
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>281,864</b>	<b>277,156</b>
<b>Net result from operations</b>	<b>177,823</b>	<b>171,554</b>
Net income from associates	100	825
<b>Net result before tax</b>	<b>177,923</b>	<b>172,379</b>
Profit tax	34,247	35,254
<b>Net result after tax</b>	<b>143,676</b>	<b>137,125</b>

## INCOME STATEMENT

- The income presented in our financial statements is derived from both local and international activities of the MCB Group. These income streams continue to be well diversified.
- Despite the challenging year, the Group's net result before tax increased 3% by NAf. 5.5 million to NAf. 178 million.
- The growth in net fees and commission was 6% or NAf. 6.5 million and was higher than the growth in net interest income (NAf. 4.6 million).
- Net income after taxes increased to NAf. 144 million. Part of this net income is allocated to strengthen the reserve for general banking risks.

## BALANCE SHEET AND EQUITY

- For financial statement presentation purposes, certain 2011 balances have been reclassified in order to be in conformity with IFRS requirements.
- MCB Group's total assets increased with NAf. 237 million or 4%, and passed the 6 billion mark at NAf. 6,044 million.
- Loans and advances to customers increased by a solid 6% with NAf. 205 million to NAf. 3,851 million.
- An amount of NAf. 13 million has been restated from 'Investment in associate companies' to 'Associate company held for sale', reflecting the sale of the Bank's shares in Royal & Sun Alliance (Antilles) N.V.
- Our shareholder's equity was again strengthened considerably by NAf. 64 million (11%) and for the first time passed the amount of NAf. 600 million at NAf. 652 million (excluding minority interest). This very strong capitalization continues to represent a key strength of our Group and one that our community, our clients and our staff can continue to rely and count on.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2012

### A) ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### 1. GENERAL

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements of Maduro & Curiel's Bank N.V. and its subsidiaries (the "Group") are set out below. These explanatory notes are an extract of the detailed notes included in the consolidated financial statements and are consistent in all material respects with those from which they have been derived.

#### 2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The consolidated financial statements, from which the consolidated financial highlights have been derived, are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS").

The figures presented in these highlights are stated in thousands of Antillean Guilders and are rounded to the nearest thousand.

The policies used have been consistently applied by the Group and its subsidiaries and are consistent, in all material respects, with those used in the previous year.

For financial statement presentation purposes certain 2011 balances have been reclassified in order to be in conformity with the 2012 presentation.

#### 3. BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION

Subsidiaries are all entities over which the Group has the power to govern the financial and operating policies. Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Group until the date that control ceases. The following subsidiaries have been consolidated as of December 31, 2012.

- Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V. and subsidiaries
- The Windward Islands Bank Ltd.
- Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V. and subsidiary
- Maduro & Curiel's Insurance Services N.V.
- MCB Group Insurance N.V.
- Progress N.V.
- MCB Risk Insurance N.V.

#### ASSOCIATE COMPANIES

Associate companies are entities over which the Group has significant influence but not control. Investments in associate companies are accounted for under the equity method of accounting.

#### 4. INVESTMENT SECURITIES

The Group classifies its investment securities in the following categories: financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, available-for-sale and held-to-maturity. Management determines the classification of its investment securities at initial recognition.

A security is classified in the category financial assets at fair value through profit or loss if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term. Available-for-sale financial assets are investments intended to be held for an indefinite period of time, which may be sold in response to needs for liquidity or changes in fair values. Investment securities with fixed maturities where management has both the intent and ability to hold to maturity are classified as held-to-maturity.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, financial assets available-for-sale and financial assets classified as held-to-maturity are initially recognized at cost. Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss and financial assets available-for-sale are subsequently carried at fair market value. Held-to-maturity securities are carried at amortized cost. Unlisted equity securities for which no readily available market exists, and for which other methods of reasonably estimating fair value are clearly inappropriate or unworkable, are carried at cost less impairment, if applicable.

The gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are included in the income statement in the period in which they arise. The gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of available-for-sale financial assets are recognized directly in equity, until the financial asset is sold or impaired at which time the cumulative gain or loss previously recognized in equity should be recognized in the income statement. Dividends on available-for-sale financial assets are recognized in the income statement when the right to receive payment is established.

#### 5. LOANS AND ADVANCES TO CUSTOMERS

Loans and advances are carried at amortized cost, less an allowance for loan impairment. An allowance for loan impairment is established if there is an indication that the Group will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original contractual loan terms.

### B) SPECIFICATION OF ACCOUNTS

(All amounts are expressed in thousands of Antillean Guilders)	2012	2011
<b>I Assets</b>		
<b>Investment securities</b>		
Held-to-Maturity	226,639	276,431
Available-for-sale	8,682	11,631
Financial assets at fair value	8,605	13,957
<b>Total investment securities</b>	<b>243,926</b>	<b>302,019</b>
<b>Loans and advances to customers</b>		
Retail customers	1,567,944	1,481,320
Corporate customers	2,271,858	2,165,933
Public sector	8,034	8,736
Other	92,812	81,357
<b>Gross loans and advances to customers</b>	<b>3,940,648</b>	<b>3,737,346</b>
Less: allowance for loan impairment	(89,489)	(91,009)
<b>Net loans and advances to customers</b>	<b>3,851,159</b>	<b>3,646,337</b>
<b>II Liabilities</b>		
<b>Customers' deposits</b>		
Retail customers	1,996,051	1,998,170
Corporate customers	2,365,312	2,290,801
Other	774,447	657,909
<b>Total customers' deposits</b>	<b>5,135,810</b>	<b>4,946,880</b>

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Stockholders and Board of Directors of  
 Maduro & Curiel's Bank N.V.  
 Curaçao

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Maduro & Curiel's Bank N.V. and its subsidiaries (the "Group") for the year ended December 31, 2012, from which these consolidated financial highlights consisting of the consolidated balance sheet, consolidated income statement and explanatory notes to the consolidated financial highlights were derived, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing.

Management is responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial highlights in accordance with the Provisions for Disclosure of Consolidated Financial Highlights of Domestic Banking Institutions published by the Centrale Bank van Curaçao en Sint Maarten.

In our auditor's report dated February 12, 2013, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements from which these consolidated financial highlights were derived.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial highlights as of December 31, 2012 are consistent, in all material respects, with the consolidated financial statements from which they have been derived. We report that the Management's Report, to the extent we can assess, is consistent with the consolidated financial statements as required by article 121 sub 3 Book 2 of the Civil Code of Curaçao.

For a better understanding of the Group's financial position and the results of its operations for the period and of the scope of our audit, the consolidated financial highlights should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements from which they have been derived and our auditor's report thereon.

Curaçao, February 12, 2013

KPMG Accountants B.V.  
 M.L.M. Kesselaer RA

## LOANS

- In extending credit, in Curaçao and Sint Maarten the Bank had to take into account two significant yet related measures taken by the Centrale Bank van Curaçao en Sint Maarten (CBCS). To contain the growth in consumptive imports, the CBCS increased the reserve requirements for Curaçao and Sint Maarten gradually from 10.5 % at the beginning of the year to 14.25% at the end of 2012. And to strengthen these measures, the CBCS also established a credit freeze (0% credit growth) from March 2012 until August 2012 while a 1% credit growth was allowed afterwards for a period of six months.
- The 6% growth in loans and advances to customers was accomplished thanks to an increase of 6% or NAf. 87 million in retail customers loans and advances and an increase of NAf. 106 million or 5% in loans to our corporate customers.

## TAXES

- MCB Group's profit tax obligation resulting from our operations in 2012 was NAf. 34 million, while the Group also paid NAf. 4.3 million in turnover taxes. Our employees paid wage taxes amounting to NAf. 28.6 million.
- In 2012 MCB collected and remitted NAf. 46 million in license fees for Curaçao and Sint Maarten. In Aruba, Caribbean Mercantile Bank collected Afl. 14 million in exchange tax which it in turn remitted to the Central Bank of Aruba for the government of Aruba.

## EMPLOYMENT

- As at December 31, 2012, MCB Group employed 1,500 persons across all islands.
- During the year, MCB Group paid its employees NAf. 94 million in salaries, not including social benefits, pensions, medical and other insurances.

## COMMUNITY

- As always, we continue to share with our communities on all islands through our numerous donations and contributions.
- In 2012, on Curaçao alone we contributed with nearly 4,900 donations amounting to almost NAf. 2.5 million to support the important work and activities of cultural, social, religious, sport and educational organizations benefiting the youth, neighborhoods and different charitable institutions.
- The Bank sponsored the first "green" Open Monuments Day on the Caracasbaai peninsula, organized by Fundashon Pro Monumento. Besides funding the event, more than 100 of our colleagues volunteered to help make the day a great success with more than 4000 visitors.
- In the annual "Kareda di LITO" more than 50 schools participated with a total of nearly 2,500 children and the event was broadcasted live by Curaçao television.
- The 2012 MCB-Prize was presented to three visionary entrepreneurs who for more than 10 years have privately (and quietly) developed one of the most deteriorated parts of our capital Willemstad, called Pietermaai Smal.

We look forward with healthy optimism to "interesting times" and will continue to position the Bank to be able to seize the opportunities that arise and to be well prepared for the more challenging moments. We are very grateful to our clients, our employees, our shareholders, our supervisory directors, our regulators and especially the communities we serve for the support we enjoyed in 2012 and hope to be able to enjoy in 2013 as well.



# Siemens Group Amazonia Hospitality



**Palm Beach** – The Siemens group, here for a corporate motivational experience, enjoyed the hospitality of Amazonia Churrascaria for just one fabulous night. Group participants were rewarded for their stellar performances in the USA with a trip to the island, staying at Westin Aruba Resort, for a vacation of a lifetime. The VIP guests were treated to a spectacular culinary experience, at Amazonia Churrascaria, over delectable food and bottomless drinks, and our pictures attest to the fact that they enjoyed their much-deserved celebration to the fullest! □



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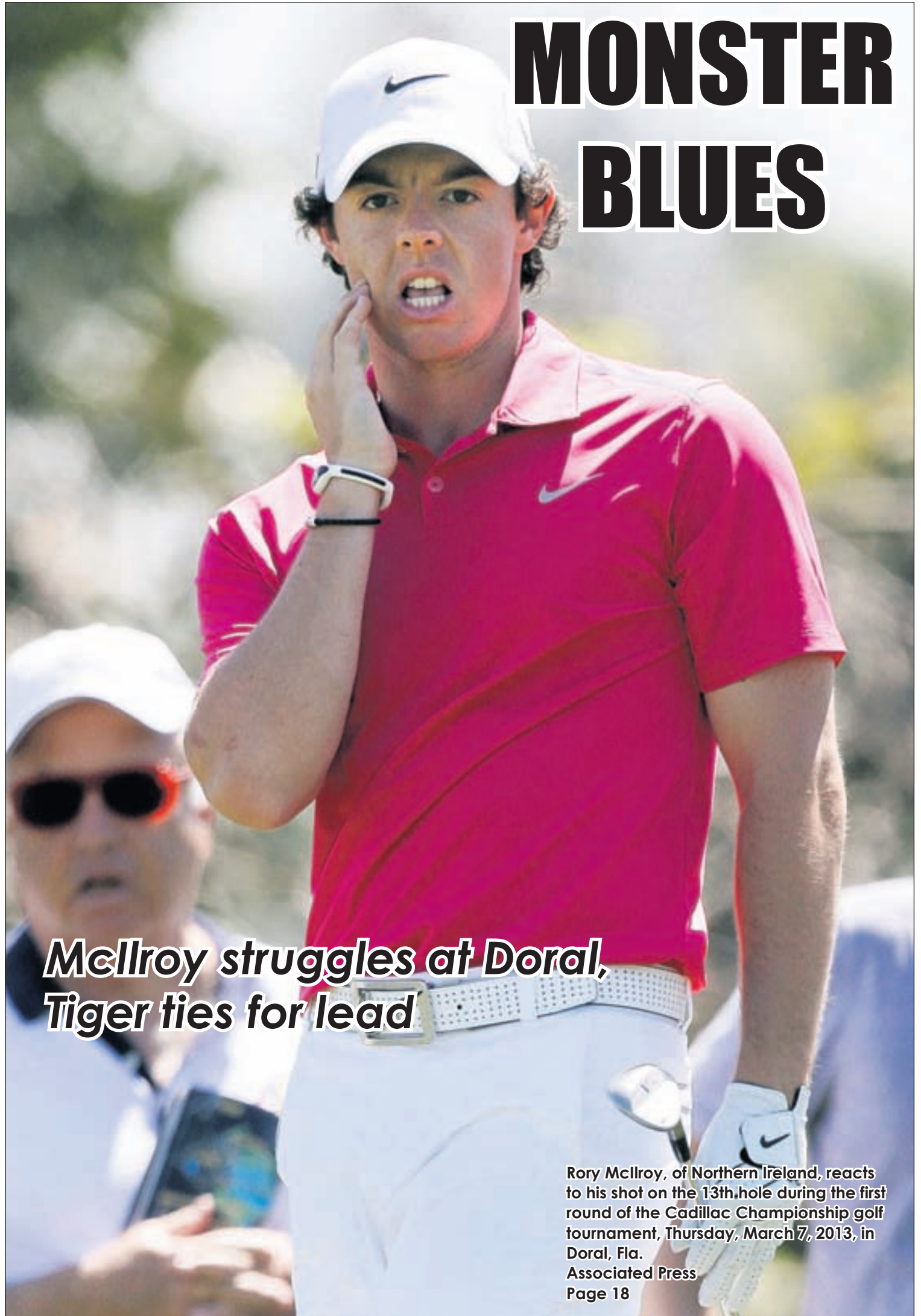




Four-time champion Lance Mackey prepares to take part in the ceremonial start of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Saturday, March 2, 2013, in Anchorage, Alaska. Associated Press.

## Lance Mackey first to Iditarod halfway mark

**IDITAROD, Alaska (AP)** — Four-time champion Lance Mackey is the first musher to reach the half-way mark in the 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Mackey last won in 2010. He pulled into the ghost town of Iditarod at 8:36 p.m. Wednesday and was awarded \$3,000 in gold. Sonny Lindner was second into the checkpoint, and another four-time champion, Jeff King, was third. None of the race leaders has satisfied a mandatory 24-hour break except for four-time champion Martin Buser who was in the lead after being first out of the chute at Sunday's start. He went on a mega-run of about 170 miles (273 kilometers) before resting his team for his 24 hours. He is now well-positioned in fourth place. From Iditarod, mushers turn their teams west toward the frozen Yukon River. □



## MONSTER BLUES

**McIlroy struggles at Doral, Tiger ties for lead**

Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, reacts to his shot on the 13th hole during the first round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament, Thursday, March 7, 2013, in Doral, Fla. Associated Press  
Page 18



# Woods tied for lead at Doral as McIlroy struggles

**DOUG FERGUSON**

**AP Golf Writer**

**DORAL, Florida (AP)** — Tiger Woods was on his game, and so were most of the world best golfers on Thursday in the first round of the Cadillac Championship, with the notable exception of No. 1 Rory McIlroy.

Woods made nine birdies on the Blue Monster at Doral for a 6-under 66 that put him in a five-way share of the lead with Masters champion Bubba Watson, former U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell, Sergio Garcia and Freddie Jacobson.

This World Golf Championship lived up to its name with Phil Mickelson, Steve Stricker and Hunter Mahan among the big names one shot behind.

But it was another rough day for McIlroy, who hit only three fairways and made six bogeys that kept him at par or worse on a perfect day for scoring. Despite making a 15-foot eagle putt on the par-5 first hole, and lacing a 5-iron over the water for another eagle attempt on the par-5 eighth that narrowly missed, the best he could manage was a 73.

McIlroy has yet to break par this year.

"It was a bit of a struggle, to be honest," McIlroy said to Sky Sports. "Hit some good shots. Hit some not-so-good shots. As I've been saying all week, this is a work in progress and I'm working at it and I'm staying patient."

Coming off a pedestri-



**Tiger Woods reacts after missing a putt on the third hole during the first round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament, Thursday, March 7, 2013, in Doral, Fla.**

**Associated Press**

an performance a week ago at the Honda Classic, Woods looked sharp in most aspects of his game, except for a few lapses with his chipping. He wasted two early birdies with a three-putt bogey on the 13th hole and a delicate flop shot that he mishit on the 14th, leading to another bogey. His chip up the slope on the third didn't reach the green for another bogey.

He holed two long birdie

putts, including a 40 footer on the par-3 fourth hole, and missed four reasonable chances inside 15 feet. His final birdie was on the par-5 eighth, when he had to lay up from a fairway bunker and hit a wedge that stopped 2 feet from the hole.

"It was certainly a day that could have been a little lower," said Woods.

Just about everyone could say that in these conditions.

Garcia and McDowell were in the same group. Not only did they have bogey-free rounds, both birdied the same four holes. Jacobson made two eagles in a span of three holes, both times hitting a 5-wood onto the green to just over 12 feet.

Watson played in the group with Mickelson and Stricker, and they were a collective 16-under par.

Stricker had a chance to tie for the lead except he missed a 4-foot birdie putt on the final hole. Mickelson, as usual, kept it entertaining.

He pulled his tee shot on the 17th hole and his ball stopped rolling after it traveled some 450 yards. He purposely took a free drop on the cart path to avoid the rough, and chipped that to about 5 feet for birdie.

"You hit the ball in as much trouble as I do off the tee, you learn to hit those kinds of shots and have enough practice at it," he said. "I knew what was going to happen."

McIlroy appears to be struggling with a change of equipment following his Nike sponsorship and backing up a big year that made him No. 1 in the world. It all got the best of him last week at the Honda Classic, when he walked off the course midway through the second round. McIlroy apologized during a press conference Wednesday, said it would never happen again and wanted to get back to

being happy on the golf course. There weren't many smiles, though he often chatted with Woods as they walked down the fairway.

He didn't hit a fairway on the front nine (he started on No. 10), though two of those shots were in the first cut and led to birdie. But as much time as he has spent trying to rediscover that easy, balanced swing, it was clear he has neglected his short game. On the second hole, he had an 80-foot putt that he left 20 feet short.

"It was nice to sneak in a couple birdies on the last three holes and make it look somewhat respectable, even though everyone seems to be going pretty low out there today," McIlroy said.

Woods played two rounds with him at Abu Dhabi to start the year, and they were frequent playing partners during the FedEx Cup playoffs last year. Woods said McIlroy looked "just a little bit defensive" with his swing.

"That happens, and we have all gone through stretches like this," Woods said. "It happens, and it happened to him last year in the middle of the year, and ended up all right at the end of the year. When you play golf for a very long time, you're going to have spells like this. You can't play well every week, even though you try. You're going to have ups and downs, and just got to battle through it." □



## Italy rallies for 6-5 win over Mexico at WBC

**JOHN MARSHALL**

**AP Sports Writer**

**SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP)** — Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run double in the ninth inning and closer Jason Grilli escaped a bases-loaded jam in the bottom half of the frame to help Italy beat Mexico 6-5 in Thursday's opening game of Pool D in the World Baseball Classic.

Mexico closer Sergio Romo (0-1) entered to a loud ovation, but gave up three hits, the last a fly ball by Rizzo to the warning track in left field that outfielder Edgar Gonzalez couldn't handle in the sunlight

at Salt River Fields.

Grilli gave up a single, a walk and a hit-by-pitch, but closed out the game by getting Jorge Cantu on a ground out.

Nick Pugliese (1-0) allowed no hits in 1 2-3 innings to take the win. □

**Mexico's Edgar Gonzalez bobbles a fly ball hit by Italy's Anthony Rizzo allowing the winning runs to score during the ninth inning of a World Baseball Classic baseball game, Thursday, March 7, 2013, at Salt River Fields in Scottsdale, Ariz.**

**Associated Press**



## Nadal faces another test at Indian Wells

**INDIAN WELLS, California (AP)** — Rafael Nadal is not sure how his injured left knee will respond to his first hardcourt match of the year at the BNP Paribas Open on Saturday.

Nadal is a two-time champion and three-time finalist at this event. He has not played a match on a hard court in almost a year and is only a month into his comeback from a left knee injury that sidelined him for seven months.

He has played three tournaments since returning, all on clay, and won titles in Brazil and Acapulco, Mexico, after losing to Horacio Zeballos in the final in Chile in his first week back.

"The results on clay were positive, especially because the knee was feeling better and better every week, especially last

week," Nadal said. "Now I'm going to try here on hard (court). I don't know (what might happen). I cannot say much."

"I'm not confident about what I will be able to do here after one year of not playing on hard. I will try my best. I don't expect anything in results here."

His first match will be against the winner of a Thursday night match between Ryan Harrison of the United States and Go Soeda of Japan.

Down the road could be a quarterfinal round match-up with No. 2 Roger Federer and a semifinal match against No. 4 David Ferrer, whom Nadal beat 6-0, 6-2 in the Acapulco final.

For that to happen, it would take the same kind of improvement Nadal saw between his loss to Zeballos and his win over Ferrer.



Rafael Nadal, of Spain, practices before the the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, Calif. Wednesday, March 6, 2013.

Associated Press

"The difference is that I was able to compete close to 100 percent in Acapulco and I didn't have that chance in Chile," Nadal said while praising Zeballos for playing a fantastic

match. "My tennis level was much better in Acapulco."

"You cannot expect to be back after seven months and play fantastic. You cannot expect to be back

on hard court and practice 2 or 3 days and play a fantastic match in the first match.

"That's competition, that's the sport. You have to work to be 100 percent ready." □

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## NBA Capsules

# James hits winner, Heat top Magic for 16th in row

**MIAMI (AP)** — LeBron James scored 26 points, including a go-ahead layup with 3.2 seconds left, and the Miami Heat scrambled late to beat the Orlando Magic 97-96 on Wednesday night and extend their franchise-record winning streak to 16 games.

Dwyane Wade scored 24 points and Chris Bosh added 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Heat, who blew a 20-point, second-half lead and then rallied from a five-point deficit in the final minutes.

Nic Vucevic had 25 points and 21 rebounds for the Magic, who got 16 points apiece from Jameer Nelson and Tobias Harris, 13 from Arron Afflalo and 12 from Maurice Harkless.

### LAKERS 108, HORNETS 102

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Kobe Bryant scored 13 of his 42 points during a 20-0 run in the last 6:22 of the fourth quarter, helping Los Angeles overcome a 25-point deficit to fend off New Orleans.

The Hornets were still ahead by 21 in the final minute of the third quarter when Greivis Vasquez's 3-pointer made it 93-72, and even after the Lakers had whittled their deficit to 12, the Hornets were up 102-88 after Robin Lopez's dunk with 6:47 to go. But the Hornets would not score again, and Bryant began to take over with a big assist from Jodie Meeks, who hit two of his five 3-pointers during the final surge to finish with 19 points.

Dwight Howard had 20 points, 15 rebounds and four blocks for Los Angeles. Bryant also had 12 assists. Eric Gordon had 18 points, Vasquez added 15 points and Al-Farouq Aminu grabbed 16 rebounds for New Orleans.

### CELTICS 83, PACERS 81

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Kevin Garnett found Jeff Green all alone under the basket for a layup with 0.5 seconds remaining to finish off a fourth-quarter comeback from 14 points down, giving Boston the victory over Indiana.

Garnett led the Celtics with



Miami Heat's LeBron James, right, drives against Orlando Magic's DeQuan Jones during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Miami on Wednesday, March 6, 2013.

Associated Press

18 points and 10 rebounds and dragged Boston back after it trailed most of the final three quarters. Green had 11 points off the bench.

Paul George scored 16 points for the Pacers, who had all five starters in double figures. David West added 11 points and 16 rebounds, and George Hill finished with 14 points.

### SPURS 101, BULLS 83

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — Tim Duncan had 18 points and 10 rebounds, and San Antonio beat Chicago in a matchup of teams missing their starting All-Star point guards.

Manu Ginobili added 18 points and nine assists, Tiago Splitter had 13 points and 10 rebounds, and Kawhi Leonard scored 14 points for San Antonio, which was playing its second game without Tony Parker.

Patty Mills provided a needed punch off the Spurs' bench, scoring 10 of his 13 points in the second half.

Parker is expected to miss about four weeks with an ankle sprain and Derrick Rose has yet to play for Chicago this season after undergoing major knee surgery.

Marco Belinelli had 21 points, Luol Deng added 19, Marquis Teague had 11 and Carlos Boozer 10 for the Bulls.

### CAVALIERS 104, JAZZ 101

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Kyrie Irving scored 20 points and made all the big plays down the stretch, rallying Cleveland to the victory over Utah.

The Cavs trailed 100-92 with less than three minutes left before Irving took over. He scored eight points, made a steal and assisted on Wayne Ellington's dunk as Cleveland stormed back to stun the Jazz.

Irving added 10 assists in his second game back after missing three with a hyperextended knee. Tristan Thompson had 16 points and 12 rebounds for Cleveland, which trailed by 12 in the fourth.

Gordon Hayward scored 25 and Enes Kanter had 17 for the Jazz, who have lost five of six.

### NETS 99, BOBCATS 78

**CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)** — Deron Williams had 20 points and eight assists, Joe Johnson added 22 points, and Brooklyn got a needed win after losing two straight and four of its last five.

The Nets trailed by 10 at the

half, but opened the third quarter with a 21-6 run led by Williams and Johnson, and never looked back. The Bobcats managed just nine points in the third quarter on 3-of-19 shooting and were outscored 56-25 in the second half to lose their eighth straight game. Reggie Evans grabbed 16 rebounds and Brook Lopez had 16 points and five rebounds for the Nets. Rookie Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had 17 points and Ben Gordon added 16 for the Bobcats, who are 6-43 since starting the season 7-5.

### HAWKS 107, 76ERS 96

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Jeff Teague scored 27 points, Anthony Tolliver added a season-high 21 and Atlanta bounced back from a sluggish start to snap a three-game losing streak. Tolliver, averaging just 3.4 points a game, had already surpassed his previous best of 13 points by halftime.

The Sixers kept leaving him open beyond the arc, and he kept knocking down 3-pointers, finishing 5 for 7 from long range.

The Hawks missed their first eight shots but quickly pulled themselves together against weary Philadelphia, which was playing its eighth game in 12 days. Atlanta led by 19 before settling for a 59-47 lead at halftime.

Damien Wilkins led the Sixers with 21 points and Dorell Wright had 20.

### KNICKS 87, PISTONS 77

**AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP)** — Raymond Felton scored 26 points, and New York pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Detroit despite Carmelo Anthony's absence.

Anthony sat out after injuring his right knee Monday, but New York went on a 16-0 run in the fourth to put away the game.

The Pistons were without big man Greg Monroe, who has a sore left ankle, and Detroit coach Lawrence Frank missed the game because of a personal matter.

The Knicks turned the ball

over 11 times in the first quarter, but they still led 44-38 at the half. Brandon Knight scored 17 points for the Pistons and led a third-quarter rally, but Detroit managed only 12 points in the fourth.

### TIMBERWOLVES 87, WIZARDS 82

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Ricky Rubio had 15 points, 11 assists, seven rebounds and six steals to lead Minnesota to a victory over Washington that snapped a six-game losing streak.

Derrick Williams added 16 points and seven rebounds for the Timberwolves, and J.J. Barea scored 10 of his 12 points in the fourth quarter.

John Wall had 19 points and seven assists, and Trevor Ariza added 16 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Wizards, who were missing leading scorer Bradley Beal because of a sprained left ankle. Washington turned the ball over 24 times, leading to 30 points by Minnesota.

Washington led by eight early in the fourth, but Rubio's defense keyed a 21-9 surge by the Timberwolves over the final 9:30.

### GRIZZLIES 91, TRAIL BLAZERS 85

**MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)** — Marc Gasol had 23 points and 12 rebounds, and Jerryd Bayless scored all 13 of his points in the final 13 minutes to lead Memphis to its second straight win and 10th victory in the last 11 games.

Memphis rallied from 17 points down in the third quarter. Mike Conley scored 20 points on 7-of-11 shooting from the field and added six assists. Tony Allen scored 10 points, including two free throws with 4.8 seconds left that provided the final margin.

Damian Lillard scored 20 points on 7-for-11 shooting to lead Portland, and J.J. Hickson had 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Memphis was without leading rebounder Zach Randolph (left ankle sprain) and reserve forward Darrell Arthur (sore neck and back). □



## NHL Capsules

# Blackhawks win 11th straight, extend points streak

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Daniel Carcillo scored the tie-breaking goal with 49.3 seconds left and the Chicago Blackhawks won their 11th consecutive game, beating the Colorado Avalanche 3-2 on Wednesday night to extend the best start in NHL

seven.

Ray Emery made 20 saves for the Blackhawks to improve to 10-0.

### DUCKS 2, COYOTES 0

**ANAHEIM, California (AP)** — Jonas Hiller faced only 18 shots in his first shutout of the season, Corey Perry scored in the first period

tawa in a game highlighted by a knockout punch from Frazer McLaren.

Only 26 seconds into the latest installment of the Battle of Ontario, the Toronto tough guy decked Dave Dziurzynski when he caught the Ottawa forward flush with a right to



Chicago Blackhawks left wing Daniel Carcillo celebrates his winning goal during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Colorado Avalanche, Wednesday, March 6, 2013, in Chicago. The Blackhawks won 3-2.

Associated Press

history.

Jonathan Toews and Andrew Shaw also scored for Chicago (21-0-3), which reached the halfway point of a lockout-shortened season without losing in regulation. The remarkable Blackhawks have earned at least one point in their first 24 games, an NHL record.

Dating back to last year's regular season, the streak is 30 games.

The Blackhawks broke the previous team record for consecutive wins with their 10th in a row Tuesday night, 5-3 over Minnesota.

Chicago's overall points streak is the second-longest during one season in NHL history.

The 1979-80 Philadelphia Flyers set the league record at 35 games with a 25-0-10 run.

John Mitchell and Matt Duchene scored for Colorado, which has lost six of

and Anaheim beat Phoenix for its ninth consecutive victory at home.

The teams met for the third straight time in a five-day span, following a pair of 5-4 shootout victories by the Coyotes in Phoenix on Saturday and Monday.

The Ducks have the second-best record in the NHL at 16-3-3 and still trail the astounding Chicago Blackhawks by 10 points. Anaheim's start is tied for the best in franchise history after 22 games. The team began its 2006-07 Stanley Cup championship season 15-2-5.

Jason LaBarbera made 22 saves for Phoenix, one of them on a penalty shot by Andrew Cogliano.

Ryan Getzlaf scored into an empty net with 21 seconds to play.

### MAPLE LEAFS 5, SENATORS 4

**TORONTO (AP)** — Phil Kessel had a goal and two assists to help Toronto hold off Ot-

the chin, sending him face down to the ice. A woozy Dziurzynski was slow getting up and eventually needed help from two teammates to skate off.

Dziurzynski did not return, and the Senators said he had a concussion. He logged a total of 3 seconds in his 10th NHL game. Tyler Bozak and James van Riemsdyk each had a goal and an assist for the Maple Leafs, who won their third straight. They built leads of 3-0 and 5-2 before Ottawa scored twice in the final 8 minutes.

Jay McClement and Nazem Kadri also scored for the Maple Leafs. James Reimer made 39 saves in his sixth consecutive victory.

Mika Zibanejad, Zack Smith, Daniel Alfredsson and Colin Greening had the goals for Ottawa, which lost its fourth in a row and dropped to 3-7-2 on

road. The Senators are 9-1-2 at home.

### FLAMES 4, SHARKS 1

**CALGARY, Alberta (AP)** — Miikka Kiprusoff made 32 saves in his return from a knee injury to lead Calgary over San Jose.

Blake Comeau scored the tiebreaking goal early in the third period. Jarome Iginla, Roman Cervenka and Curtis Glencross (into an empty net) also scored for the Flames, who improved to 4-1-1 in their last six games.

Joe Thornton had the only

goal for the Sharks, who are 2-6-1 in their last nine.

Kiprusoff, who began his NHL career with the Sharks 12 years ago, returned to the lineup after missing 13 games with a sprained knee. Calgary went 6-5-2 during his absence.

Comeau's first goal this year was just his second in the last 41 games, dating to last season.

In other NHL games it was Toronto 5, Ottawa 4; Chicago 3, Colorado 2; Calgary 4, San Jose 1; and Anaheim 2, Phoenix 0. □

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**3D Version With Spanish Subtitles**

Mon - Thurs 4:00 / 5:10 / 6:30 / 8:00 / 9:15  
Fri 4:00 / 5:10 / 6:30 / 8:00 / 9:15 / 10:50  
Sat 2:20 / 3:45 / 5:10 / 6:30 / 8:00 / 9:15 / 10:50  
Sun & Hol 2:20 / 3:45 / 5:10 / 6:30 / 8:00 / 9:15

Miguel Céspedes Raymond Pozo

**THE HANGOVER PART III**

**Spanish Version**

Mon - Thurs 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20  
Fri 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20 / 11:40  
Sat 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20 / 11:40  
Sun & Hol 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20

Sylvester Stallone Sung Kang

**BULLET TO THE HEAD**

Mon - Thurs 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20  
Fri 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 / 11:30  
Sat 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 / 11:30  
Sun & Hol 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

Óscar Barberán Fiona Glascott

**TAD THE LOST EXPLORER**

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Sat 2:20 / 4:25 / 6:30 / 8:35 / 10:40  
Sun & Hol 2:20 / 4:25 / 6:30 / 8:35

Bruce Willis Jai Courtney

**A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD**

**With Spanish Subtitles**

Mon - Thurs 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:35  
Fri 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:35 / 11:50  
Sat 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:35 / 11:50  
Sun & Hol 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:35

Jason Bateman Melissa McCarthy

**IDENTITY THIEF**

Mon - Thurs 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20  
Fri 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20 / 11:50  
Sat 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20 / 11:50  
Sun & Hol 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20

Jessica Chastain Nikolaj Coster-Waldau

**MAMA**

Mon - Thurs 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30  
Fri 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30 / 11:55  
Sat 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30 / 11:55  
Sun & Hol 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30

**STARTING THURSDAY MARCH 14**

**JACK THE GIANT SLAYER**





**Deadly infections with bacteria that resist the strongest antibiotics, including carbapenems like Prepenem, are on the rise in U.S. hospitals.**

(Handout Photo)

## Drug-resistant infections rise in US hospitals, report warns

**DENISE GRADY**

© 2013 New York Times

Deadly infections with bacteria that resist even the strongest antibiotics are on the rise in U.S. hospitals, and there is only a "limited window of opportunity" to halt their spread, health officials warned Tuesday.

The bacteria, normally found in the gut, have acquired a lethal trait: They are unscathed by antibiotics, including carbapenems, a group of drugs that are generally considered a last resort. When these resistant germs invade parts of the body where they do not belong, like the bloodstream, lungs or urinary tract, the illness may be untreatable. The death rate from bloodstream infections can reach 50 percent.

Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, called the organisms "nightmare bacteria" during a telephone news conference and noted that they could pass their trait for drug resistance – encoded in a scrap of genetic material called a plasmid – along to other bacteria.

Most people who contract these infections already have other serious illnesses that require complicated treatment and lengthy stays in hospitals, nursing homes or long-term care facilities. One bit of good news, Frieden said, is that the infections do not seem to have spread beyond hospitals into the community at large. But that could easily happen, he warned. According to a new report

by the disease centers, among all infections with gut bacteria, the proportion caused by carbapenem-resistant types rose to 4 percent in 2012, from 1 percent in 2001; among infections caused by one type of bacteria, *Klebsiella*, 10 percent have become resistant, compared with 2 percent a decade ago. Drug-resistant *Klebsiella*, traced to one patient, caused a notorious outbreak in 2011 at a hospital at the National Institutes of Health. Seventeen other people were infected, and six of them died.

Forty-two states have had cases of carbapenem-resistant infection. The problem is most common in the Northeast, particularly in hospitals in New York City, officials said. Nationwide, about 4 percent of short-stay hospitals reported such infections in the first half of 2012, but the rate was much higher – 18 percent – among long-term acute-care hospitals, which treat people who need ventilators for a long time or who have other chronic problems.

The disease centers recommended a variety of ways to try to stop the infections from spreading. The advice includes the usual call for ruthless scrubbing of all surfaces and relentless hand-washing.

But hospitals are also urged to find out whether patients are infected, isolate those who are, and assign dedicated-care teams and equipment to infected people only, to avoid spreading the bacteria to others. □

## Experts:

## Salt intake tied to autoimmune diseases

**Carolyn Y. Johnson**

**GLOBE STAFF**

© 2013 The New York Times

What started as a detailed study of the inner workings of one kind of immune cell has led two teams of researchers from New England to a surprising insight: a high-salt diet may increase risk of autoimmune diseases, such as multiple sclerosis and psoriasis.

The intriguing connection, reported Wednesday, is an important step in identifying dietary and other environmental causes of these disorders at a time when many of them have been on the rise.

Americans on average consume nearly 50 percent more salt than recommended, and salty diets have long been linked to problems such as high

reported.

"I was quite elated when I saw this work," said Dr. Lawrence Steinman, a professor of neurology at Stanford University, who was not involved in the research described in a trio of papers published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*. Steinman plans to launch a trial of a drug for MS patients that targets a different but related process involved in salt regulation. "I'm such a strong believer that salt matters that I'm pushing this into the clinic."

The work illustrates how powerful new biological approaches to investigate a seemingly esoteric question – how genes control the behavior of cells – can guide scientists to unexpected insights into the factors that cause com-

Palo Alto, Calif., called the studies "remarkable," but added that the diseases are complex and salt may be just one of many risk factors.

"People have different genetic predispositions to various diseases, including autoimmune disease," Cua said. "If you genetically have a very high susceptibility to autoimmune disease, it may be by reducing salt, you're taking away that one" risk.

Three and a half years ago, Vijay Kuchroo, an immunologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital, was not thinking about salt. He wanted to better understand TH17 cells, which normally help the body clear infections, but can also turn pathogenic. He hoped to help physicians and researchers sort a needle from a haystack: of the many environmental factors that have changed during the past half-century, from diet to lifestyle, which ones might help explain the rise in autoimmune diseases?

One common autoimmune disorder, Type 1 diabetes, increased 23 percent between 2001 and 2009, according to the American Diabetes Association. The incidence of psoriasis nearly doubled between 1970 and 2000. Pediatric multiple sclerosis, Kuchroo said, was virtually unheard of 20 years ago, and now more and more cases are being reported.

He began talking with computational biologist Aviv Regev at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, an expert in studying cells' molecular circuitry. Would her approach, he wondered, provide insight into the complicated role that the TH17 cells play in the immune system?

"It's like a Rube Goldberg machine – a zillion different places where things are controlled, and if any one of those breaks down, it can increase your risk of autoimmune disease," Regev said. "In order to know what goes wrong, you have to know how it normally functions." □



**Experts suggest that a high-salt diet may increase risk of autoimmune diseases, such as multiple sclerosis and psoriasis.**

(Handout Photo)

blood pressure.

The findings raise the possibility that cutting salt intake could protect against autoimmune diseases, which occur when the body's defenses against infections go haywire and attack itself – but far more research is needed to make that determination.

The scientists found an enzyme that, when exposed to salt, causes a regular immune cell to transform into a pathogenic one, spewing out inflammatory proteins that have been linked to autoimmune illnesses. Mice genetically prone to develop a form of multiple sclerosis had more severe disease when fed a high-salt diet, the researchers

mon human disease. The work, supported partly by the National Institutes of Health, is the kind of fundamental laboratory research whose funding scientists say is imperiled by the across-the-board federal spending cuts that began last week.

Several outside researchers cautioned that although there are already good health arguments for lowering salt intake, the connection between salt and autoimmune disease needs more research to prove whether it holds true in the human body – and is an important trigger.

Daniel Cua, a senior principal scientist at Merck Research Laboratories in



# Facebook brings a more personal touch to News Feed

**MICHAEL LIEDTKE**

**AP Technology Writer**

**MENLO PARK, California**

**(AP)** — Facebook has redesigned the main attraction of its social network to address complaints that its website has turned into a jumble of monotonous musings and random photos.

In an attempt to breathe new life into Facebook's News Feed, the company will introduce new controls that allow people to sort streams of photos and other material into organized sections.

With the makeover unveiled Thursday, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg hopes to turn the News Feed into something more like a newspaper tailored to the particular interests for each of the social network's more than 1 billion worldwide users.

Previous tweaks to the News Feed have triggered howls of protest among Facebook's users. Hoping to minimize the grouching this time around, Facebook intends to roll out the changes in phases. It will probably be six months to a year before everyone who accesses Facebook on a personal computer sees the revamped News Feed, the company said. The facelift is likely to be more jarring for those who only visit Facebook on a PC because it incorporates some features already deployed in the social network's mobile applications for smartphones and tablet computers.

The new features will enable users to choose to see streams of content that may feature nothing but photos or posts from



**Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg speaks at Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif., Thursday, March 7, 2013.**  
Associated Press

their closest friends, family members or favorite businesses.

Or they can just peruse content about music, or sports, as if they were grabbing a section of a newspaper.

Other newspaper-like changes will include lists of events that users' social circles have flagged for the upcoming weekend and other summaries meant to resemble a table of contents.

By adding more personal touches, Facebook is acknowledging that the computer-generated formulas that it has been using to determine the content shown to each user have become less effective as the social circles within its network have widened to include a more diverse array of information.

"This gives people more power to dig deeper into the topics they care

about," Zuckerberg said while discussing the makeover at Facebook's Menlo Park, California headquarters.

Facebook still intends to rely on algorithms to select some material to feature on the main part of the News Feed, much like newspaper editors determine what goes on the front page.

More space on the News Feed's front page and other sections space will be devoted to pictures and video in recognition of how dominant those visual elements have become on Facebook as smartphones and tablet computers equipped with high-quality cameras have made it easier to share snapshots and clips.

About 50 percent of the posts on News Feed include a photo or video now, up from 25 percent in late 2011, Zuckerberg said.

The changes to News Feed are meant to make Facebook a more fun place to hang out.

The changes are also being made to help the site avoid becoming an Internet has-been like other once trendy social networks such as Friendster and MySpace.

Although Facebook's website remains one of the Internet's top destinations, there have been early signs that the social network is losing some of its pizzazz, particularly among younger Web surfers who are starting to spend more time on other fraternizing hubs such as Tumblr, Pinterest and Instagram, a photo-sharing site that Facebook bought for \$521 million last summer.

A phenomenon, known as "Facebook Fatigue," was recently documented in a report from Pew Research Center's Internet and

American Life Project. The study found that about 61 percent of Facebook users had taken a hiatus for reasons that range from boredom to too much irrelevant information to Lent. That's a worrisome trend for Facebook because the company needs to ensure that its audience keeps coming back so it can learn more about their interests and, ultimately, sell more of the advertising that brings in most of the company's revenue.

"I don't think it had turned into a crisis, but Facebook was probably seeing some internal data that was telling them they needed to do something," said Greg Sterling, a senior analyst for Opus Research.

Facebook has been struggling to find the right balance between keeping its fun-loving audience happy and selling enough ads to please investors who want the company to accelerate its revenue growth.

Wall Street seems to think the redesigned News Feed might be a step in the right direction. Facebook's stock gained \$1.21, or 4.4 percent, to \$28.66 in Thursday's late afternoon trading.

The mobile-friendly redesign of News Feed underscores the company's intensifying focus on smartphones and tablet computers as more of its users rely on those devices to interact on the social network.

About 23 percent, or \$306 million, of Facebook's advertising revenue came from the mobile market during the final three months of last year. □

## Cisco to set up tech training centers in Myanmar

**ERIKA KINETZ**

**Associated Press**

**YANGON, Myanmar (AP)**

— Cisco Systems plans to establish two network training centers in Myanmar, as global technology companies begin to move into one of the least-connected places on Earth.

The announcement Thursday came on the heels of a USAID-sponsored del-

egation of executives from Cisco, Google, HP, Intel and Microsoft to the fast-opening country. Levels of cellphone use are lower in Myanmar than in North Korea. The government has made reform of its telecommunications sector, which was long dominated by crony businesses, a priority. Bids from 91 companies from around the world for

two nationwide telecom licenses are now under consideration. Increased competition is expected to dramatically reduce the cost of SIM cards, which now run \$300 to \$500, in time for national elections in 2015. The USAID technology delegation was geared toward technology education, but is also a step toward commercial

engagement.

"Google has a range of potential partnerships, one of which is designed to improve access to online learning ... in addition to a broader range of business opportunities that I think you'll see



**USAID head Rajiv Shah gestures during an interview with The Associated Press in Yangon, Myanmar, Thursday, March 7, 2013.**  
Associated Press

Google expand into relatively quickly. □



## Tight oversight of computer trading proposed by U.S.

**MARCY GORDON**  
AP Business Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. stock exchanges could be subject to tighter oversight of automated trading under a federal proposal that advanced Thursday. The Securities and Exchange Commission voted 4-0 to seek comment on rules that would require routine testing of trading systems. The exchanges would also be required to notify the SEC about problems, including systems comprised by hacking. Any problems would have to be quickly corrected. The proposal follows several cases where technical glitches disrupted trading. Stock trading now relies heavily on computer systems that exploit split-penny price differences. Stocks can be traded in fractions of a second, often by automated programs. The rules would replace a voluntary program that most U.S. exchanges participate in. The public has 60 days to comment on the rules, after which the SEC can adopt them.

The changes would be "instrumental in our efforts to bolster investor confidence, protect investors, and maintain fair and orderly markets," SEC Chairman Elisse Walter said before the vote. So-called high-frequency trading is estimated to account for more than 50 percent of all U.S. stock trading.

As markets become faster and more technologically advanced, they are also prone to more technical failures.

In August, a software glitch at trading firm Knight Capital sent erroneous orders to the New York Stock Exchange. The result was 45 minutes of volatile trading and a loss of \$440 million for Knight, which at the time oversaw trading of 524 stocks on the NYSE.

In May, a technical glitch on the Nasdaq Stock Market delayed the highly anticipated debut of Facebook as a public company. □

## US consumer debt up \$16.2 billion in January

**M. CRUTSINGER**  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Americans stepped up borrowing in January to buy cars and attend school, while staying cautious about using their credit cards.

Consumer borrowing rose \$16.2 billion in January from December to a total of \$2.8 trillion, the Federal Reserve said Thursday.

That's the highest level on record.

A category that covers student loans and auto loans grew \$16 billion following an \$18.3 billion gain in December.

Consumers barely increased credit card debt in January, when Social Security taxes rose and lowered take-home pay for most workers.

A measure of credit card debt grew only \$106.1 million after a \$3.2 billion drop in December.

Credit card debt remains 17.2 percent below the peak set in June 2008. Analysts suspect consumers will stay cautious with their

plastic this year, largely because of the tax increase. The tax increase will leave a person earning \$50,000 with about \$1,000 less to spend in 2013. A household with two high-paid workers will have up to \$4,500 less.

200,000 jobs a month from November through January, up from 150,000 in the previous three months.

On Friday, the government will issue the February jobs report. Analyst forecast that employers added 152,000

average this week to a record high. And a housing recovery has help lift home prices.

A separate Fed report Thursday showed Americans have regained the wealth they lost to the Great Recession and are increasingly taking on more debt.

Household wealth increased to \$66.1 trillion in the October-December quarter, the report noted. That's about 98 percent of the pre-recession peak. Household debt rose 2.4 percent, the sharpest gain in nearly five years.

The increases in stock and home prices since then mean Americans' net worth has since topped the pre-recession peak of \$67.4 trillion, private economists say.

Wealth had bottomed at \$51.4 trillion in early 2009.

Household wealth, or net worth, reflects the value of assets like homes, stocks and bank accounts minus debts like mortgages and credit cards. □



**Americans stepped up borrowing in January to buy cars and attend school, while staying cautious about using their credit cards.**

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

Still, other factors could offset the rise in taxes.

The job market has improved and pay is slowing increasing for many workers. The economy created

jobs last month, although recent data suggest hiring may have been stronger.

The stock market has also surged this year, pushing the Dow Jones industrial

## Weekly US unemployment claims fall to 340,000

**C. S. RUGABER**  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The number of Americans seeking unemployment aid fell to a seasonally adjusted 340,000 last week, driving down the four-week average to its lowest level in five years. The drop is a positive sign ahead of Friday's report on February job growth.

Applications for benefits fell 7,000 in the week ended March 2, the Labor Department said Thursday. And the four-week average, a less volatile measure, dropped to 348,750. That's the lowest since March 2008, just a few months into the Great Recession.

Weekly applications are a proxy for layoffs. When they fall, it suggests that companies are shedding fewer jobs. More hiring may follow.

The decline adds to other evidence that hiring may have been better last month than economists forecast. Analysts predict

that employers added 152,000 jobs, according to a survey by FactSet. That's about the same as in January. The unemployment rate is projected to fall to 7.8 percent from

The economy generated an average of 200,000 jobs a month from November through January. That was up from about 150,000 in the previous three months. In January they added

in February, above most analysts' expectations. And January's hiring was revised higher by 23,000 to 215,000.

Services firms, including retailers, restaurants and construction companies added jobs at a healthy clip, according to the Institute for Supply Management's monthly survey. An index of hiring by service companies slipped but remained near January's seven-year high.

The ISM's manufacturing survey found that factories also added workers in February, too, though at a slower pace than the previous month.

The number of people receiving unemployment aid fell to 5.4 million in the week ended Feb. 16, the latest data available. That's a drop of 362,000 from the previous week. Some of the decline is likely because people found work. But it is also because many have simply used up all the benefits available. □



**Sayed Mouawad of Providence, R.I., shakes hands with Jillian Wallace of Matix, Inc., during a job fair in Boston.**

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

7.9 percent. "The improvement is still gradual, but at least things are moving in the right direction," Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics, said in a note to clients.

157,000.

Several reports this week suggest hiring remained healthy last month. Payroll services provider ADP said Wednesday that businesses added 198,000 jobs



## Retailers report slowing sales gains for February

**A. D'INNOCENZIO**  
**AP Retail Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Americans cut back on spending in February as cold weather and economic challenges chilled their appetite for spring merchandise.

The U.S. retailers on Thursday reported that sales slowed in February, a time when most stores get rid of winter merchandise and bring in swimsuits, ankle length pants and other spring fashions. But Americans spent more judiciously during the month as they contended with an increase in the payroll tax of 2 percentage points, income tax refunds that came later than usual and rising gas prices. Winter storms throughout much of the country in February also likely made spring merchandise less appealing to them.

"February was a difficult month," said Ken Perkins, president of Retail Metrics LLC., a research firm. "Retailers faced significant headwinds." February's tally reflects a drop in sales growth from January. Overall, 14 retailers reported on Thursday that revenue at stores open at least a year — an indicator of retail health — rose an average of 4.1 percent, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers, an industry trade

group. That compares with a 5.1 percent increase in January, and a rise of 6.7 percent in February 2012. But the latest results also mark a reduction in the number of stores reporting monthly revenue, including big names like Target, Macy's and Nordstrom. Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, hasn't reported on a monthly basis in years. With the shrinking list, Costco, which posted a 6 percent gain in February, now accounts for about two-thirds of the tally. In total, the retailers that report monthly data represent about 6 percent of the \$2.4 trillion in U.S. retail industry sales. Among the companies that reported monthly results, the ones that cater to poor and middle-class shoppers said that Americans are still grappling with economic challenges. Many of them had to do heavy discounting to get shoppers to spend. Bruce Efrid, CEO of the discount chain Fred's, said delayed tax returns and the increase in payroll tax weighed on customer's spending patterns. Fred's reported that revenue fell 1.5 percent in February, more than the 1.3 percent drop Wall Street had expected. Fred's also lowered its fourth-quarter outlook due to markdowns and higher-than-expected costs. □

## Stocks continue gains on jobs report

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
**AP Markets Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Dow pushed further into record territory Thursday, having surpassed its previous all-

The Dow barreled through a record high Tuesday and has added to its gains since then. The S&P 500 is also closing in on its own record high of 1,565, which

some volatility, especially after the big run we've had," said Michael Sheldon, chief market strategist at RDM Financial Group.

Boeing gained Thursday, advancing \$1.97, or 2.5 percent, to \$81.05 following reports that U.S. regulators were poised to approve a plan within days to allow the plane maker to begin test flights of its 787 Dreamliner. The 787 fleet has been grounded since Jan. 16 because of safety concerns about the plane's batteries. Twenty stocks in the 30-member index advanced.

The Federal Reserve will release the results of its annual stress test for banks after the market closes Thursday. Financial stocks advanced amid speculation that banks will have amassed enough capital to be able to return more cash to shareholders. Bank of America had the largest percentage gain in the Dow, rising 34 cents, or 2.9 percent, to \$12.26, with JPMorgan Chase in third spot, gaining 60 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$50.63. Jeffery Saut, chief investment strategist at Raymond James, predicted that any sell-off in stocks may be short-lived as investors who have missed out on the rally since the start of the year jump into the market.

"The rally is going to go higher than most people think," Saut said. □



**Maureen Smaldone, a trader for Brendan E. Cryan and Company, monitors trading activity from her workstation at the New York Stock Exchange. The positive mood in financial markets helped push up stocks for a fifth day in a row on Thursday March 7, 2013. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)**

time high two days ago. The catalyst was the latest evidence that hiring is picking up. Stocks started higher after the Labor Department reported that the number of Americans seeking unemployment aid fell by 7,000 last week, driving the four-week average to its lowest in five years. The drop is a positive sign ahead of Friday's employment report. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 33.25 points, or 0.2 percent, to 14,329.49. The Standard & Poor's 500 gained 2.80 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,544.26. Both indexes rose for the fifth day straight.

was also reached on Oct. 9, 2007, the same day of the Dow's previous peak. The S&P would need to rise 21 points, or 1.3 percent, to set a record.

Investors have been buying stocks on optimism that employers are slowly starting to hire again and that the housing market is recovering. Growing company earnings are also encouraging investors to get into the market. The Dow is 9.4 percent higher this year and the broader S&P 500 is up 8.3 percent.

"If you have a multi-year time horizon, equities are an attractive asset, but don't be surprised to see

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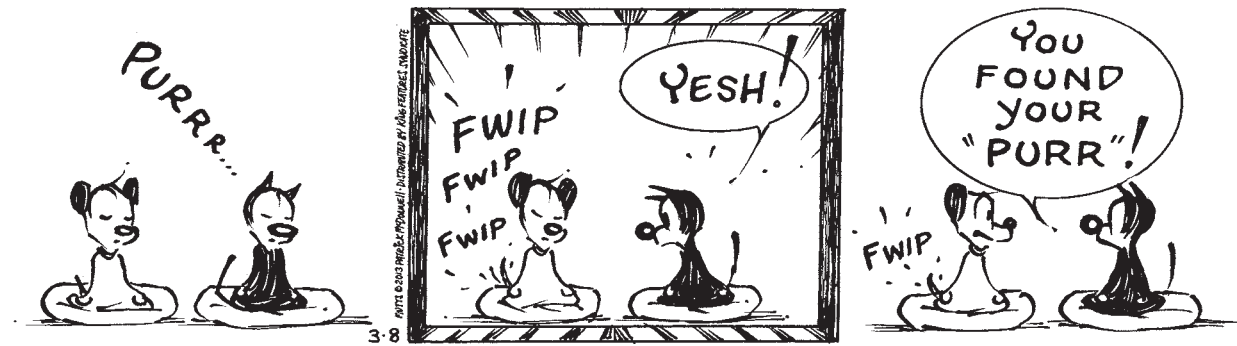
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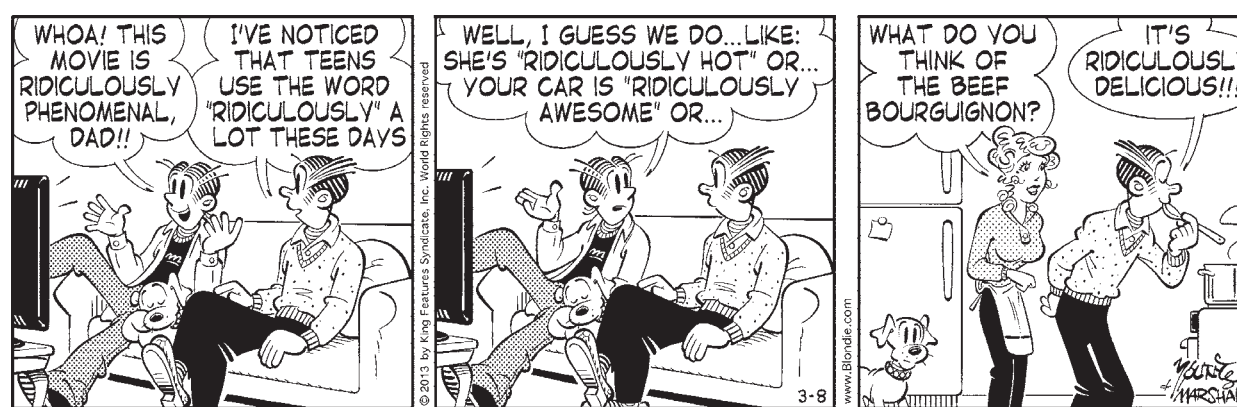
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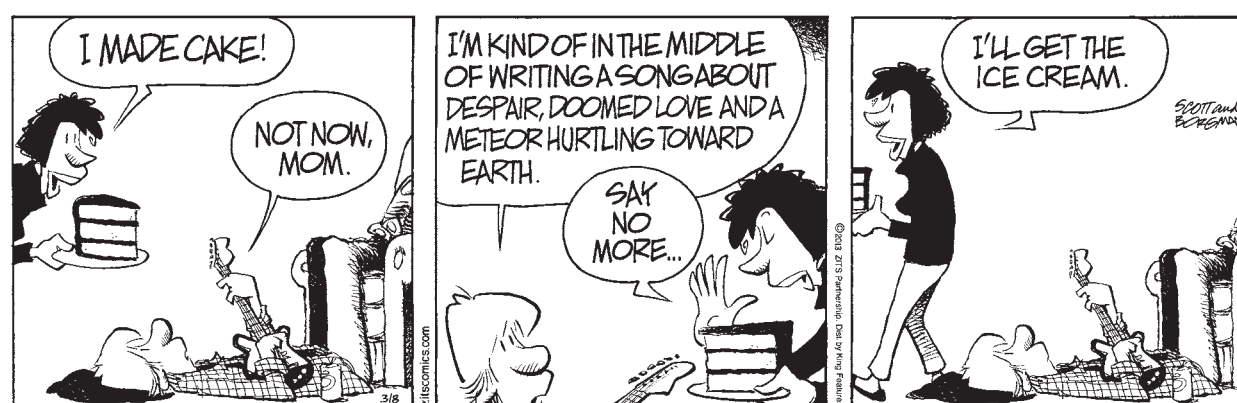
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

								6
6	1	4	8		7			
8				3		9		
1		2			5			
7						3		
	4			5		6		
2		6				4		
	9		2	7	6	8		
5								

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/08

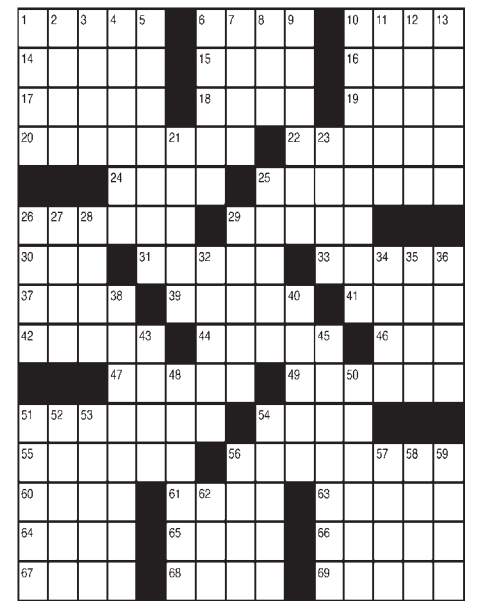
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	1	9	6	4	2	3	7	8
4	2	7	8	1	3	6	5	9
3	8	6	5	7	9	4	1	2
1	9	5	3	6	4	8	2	7
7	4	8	1	2	5	9	6	3
2	6	3	9	8	7	5	4	1
6	5	1	7	9	8	2	3	4
9	7	4	2	3	6	1	8	5
8	3	2	4	5	1	7	9	6

ACROSS

- Soft drinks
- Eve's husband
- Floor pads
- Alter to fit
- Roy Rogers and Evans
- Ladd or Thicke
- Engine
- Count calories
- Afterbath wraparound
- Church officials
- Just a ; slightly
- Dishonest one
- Container full of potting soil
- Bricklayers
- Portion
- Ode on a Grecian
- No longer fresh
- Build
- Equipment
- Each
- For ; on the market
- Wise men
- Artist's stand
- Signal to an actor
- Keep watch over
- Prepares taters
- Spookiest
- List of dishes
- Explosions
- Purses
- Tap a baseball
- Heroic tale
- Miss ; matriarch on TV's "Dallas"
- On ; nervous
- Ice cream parlor order
- Late actor Christopher
- Stag or doe
- Gush forth
- Spirited horse



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/8/13

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

TUNA	GHANA	ENGL
OPEN	RIDER	MOLE
TORN	ADORE	EVEN
ENDORSE	VAGRANT	
YIP	PESOS	
SHEEP	BUS	ROAMS
WELD	ERR	PENCIL
ALI	ADAPTED	ONO
METALS	OAT	TRIP
INEPT	ASP	MANSE
LAPSE	BOB	
IMPERIL	TENANTS	
MAIN	NEWAT	SOUP
PUTT	TEARS	CUBA
SLAY	SPRAY	ONES

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3/8/13

DOWN

- Sleep under the stars
- Skunk's defense
- Sign up
- Neighbor of Saudi Arabia
- Hard fat of beef and mutton
- Columist Ann
- Evaluate
- Rent from a renter
- Receded
- Slip away from
- Stove
- Large parrot
- Animal pelt
- Toward shelter
- up; quit
- Grain
- Burst



# Classifieds

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### La Cabana

1 br wk 7 thur \$5200  
Tropicana 1 br wk 7+8 Rm 5532  
\$3500 each  
other Aruba wks for sale /rent  
rmwjmw@aol.com  
508-651-0016

199025

## FOR SALE

### Casa del Mar

week 9 Rm 1329 \$3500  
week 10 Rm 1329 \$3500  
Renaissance ocean view  
week 32 Rm 2351 \$3500  
Staying on island till 16th March  
ritchey5652@comcast.net

199024

## FOR SALE

### Aruba Beach Club (ABC)

week #10 pool/ ocean side  
\$9.500  
Call George at ABC Rm 135  
For info. 582-700

199025

## FOR SALE

### Marriott Surf Club

2 br platinum ocean front \$35.000  
3 br platinum ocean view \$30.000  
Call (297)731-2012  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com  
Free listing 26 years exp

241

## FOR RENT

### La Cabana Studio

Rm 422-B wk 8  
spectacular view  
sunday-sunday  
Price \$7,000.00  
Call 737-3000  
ITR Realty Inc  
itraruba@gmail.com

199037

## FOR SALE

On behalf of Owner  
**Dutch Village wk 8**  
1 bdr \$6500 Top location  
Call 737-3000  
ITR Realty Inc  
itraruba@gmail.com

199037

## FOR SALE

### La Cabana BRC

Std wk 8 room # 107B grand floor  
(fri) \$7.500 2 br wk 8 and 9 room  
#202 E o.f. \$20.000 each  
1 br wk 9 room # 401D dlx o.f.  
(sun) \$10.000  
Call (297)731-2012  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com  
Free listing 26 years exp

241

## FOR SALE

### Dutch Village

1 br wk 8 room # 94 28 weeks left  
8 accerated \$10.000  
Stu wk 9 room # 135 33 weeks left  
accelerated \$6.000  
Divi Phoenix  
1br wk 10 room #802 o.v. \$9.500  
1 br wk 12 room #1101 o.v. \$9.500  
Call (297)731-2012  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com  
Free listing 26 years exp

241

## FOR SALE

### Occidental Grand Aruba

1 br dlx wk 2/17 o.v. optional all  
incl. \$11.500  
2 br dlx wk 2/17 o.v. mandatory all  
incl. \$45.000  
wk 8 1br o.v. mandatory all incl.  
\$18.500  
Call (297)731-2012  
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Free listing 26 years exp

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## FOR SALE

### On behalf of Owner

### Dutch Village wk 6

Studio \$4,000.00  
Call 737-3000  
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itraruba@gmail.com

199037

## FOR SALE

### week 9 & 10

1 bdr sleeps 4, pool/ocean, 2nd  
floor, phase 2 \$8000/wk  
or Rent 2014 \$1100/wk  
1-(506) 363-4530  
jrcheev@nbnet.nb.ca

199038

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1 br wk 7 and 8 room # 4226  
(35 weeks left) \$8.500 each  
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weeks left) \$7.500 each  
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com  
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241

## FOR SALE

### Casa del Mar

2 br wk 9 room # 1208 P/O view  
\$18.000  
Renaissance Suites  
1 br wk 8 room #2303 P/O view  
\$10.000  
Paradise Beach Villas  
2 br wk 8 room # 128 o.f. \$19.000  
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## FOR SALE

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3 br, 3 bath fully furnished full airc.  
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Oceania condos  
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side of the island \$750.000  
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com  
Free listing 26 years exp

241

## FOR SALE

### Renaissance Ocean View

wk 1 -137 \$10.500  
wk 16 two weeks to Rent  
\$1000 a week  
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1-781-324-8130  
Joe or Mary Summers

114364

## FOR SALE

### Paradise Beach Villas

wk 7 - 1br \$7000  
wk 8 - 1 br \$9000  
wk 9 - 1 br \$7000  
wk 10 - 1 br \$7000-9000  
wk 9 - 2 br \$9500  
Pls call 732-2788  
sales@arubadirectdeals.com

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## FOR SALE

### House For Sale by owner

close to the beach in Alto Vista in  
nice Residential area, property  
land, smart electricity hot water,  
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for more inf. 594-6639

199015

## FOR SALE

### Cozy one bedroom house

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tourism spots walking distance  
from the beach and high rice hotels  
US\$210.000  
Tel. 1-905-599-7915

199028

## FOR SALE

### Divi Aruba Phoenix

**Waterfront Villas week 8**  
Unit #821 and #822  
2 bedroom, 3 baths  
units can be split over  
week 8 & week 9 \$26,000  
E-mail: [jwhelan99@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jwhelan99@sbcglobal.net)  
Cell: 203-910-7333  
on Island till march 2nd

199003

## FOR SALE

### Occidental Grand Aruba

Fixed week 8  
mandatory all inclusive  
one bedroom 2 bath  
\$16,000  
Call mary at 565-8713  
e-mail: [macalh@aol.com](mailto:macalh@aol.com)  
Licensed Realtor

199004

## FOR RENT

### Tropicana week 8

1 bedroom, sleeps 4, pool side  
sun. 2/24 - sun. 3/3 \$700.00  
Aruba Cell: 745-5246  
E-mail: [iceprincess3754@yahoo.com](mailto:iceprincess3754@yahoo.com)

198746

## FOR SALE

### Marriott Surf Club

2 bedroom Platinum season  
\$20,000  
call mary at 565-8713 or  
e-mail: [macalh@aol.com](mailto:macalh@aol.com)

198537

## FOR RENT or SALE

### Divi Golf Links

wk 6, 7 (president's wk)  
& 8 Studio, 1 bd, 2 bd or 3 bd  
overlooking Infinity Pool  
starting at \$1100 per wk  
e-mail: [emac16@aol.com](mailto:emac16@aol.com)  
Ph: 732-580-5828

198862

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198863

## FOR RENT

### Paradise Beach Villas

Mar. 16-23 1br \$800  
Mar. 17-24 1br \$850  
Mar. 30 Apr. 6 1br \$850  
Pls call 732-2788  
[rental@arubadirectdeals.com](mailto:rental@arubadirectdeals.com)

199030

## FOR SALE

### Paradise Beach Villas

weeks 5,6,7,8 & 9  
1st floor pool side  
8500 per wk  
USA Dorothy 623 933 7554  
or barry 360 546 0788

198526

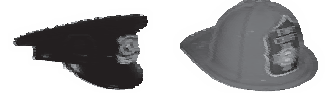
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FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
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HOSPITAL	527-4000
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SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

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Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
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Tel: 582-4433

### Diabetic Foundation

### Arubano

Tel: 583-3808

### Narcotics Anonymous

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### pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

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### Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

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# Recent heat spike unlike anything in 11,000 years

**SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP Science Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A new study looking at 11,000 years of climate temperatures shows the world in the middle of a dramatic U-turn, lurching from near-record cooling to a heat spike.

Research released Thursday in the journal *Science* uses fossils of tiny marine organisms to reconstruct global temperatures back to the end of the last ice age.

It shows how the globe for several thousands of years was cooling until an unprecedented reversal in the 20th century.

Scientists say it is further evidence that modern-day global warming isn't natural, but the result of rising carbon dioxide emissions that have rapidly grown since the Industrial Revolution began roughly 250 years ago.

The decade of 1900 to 1910 was one of the coolest in the past 11,300 years — cooler than 95 percent of the other years, the marine fossil data suggest. Yet 100 years later, the decade of 2000 to 2010 was one of the warmest, said study lead author Shaun Marcott of Oregon State University. Global thermometer records only go back to 1880, and those show the last decade was the hottest for this more recent time period.

"In 100 years, we've gone from the cold end of the spectrum to the warm end of the spectrum," Marcott said.

"We've never seen something this rapid. Even in the ice age the global temperature never changed this quickly."

Using fossils from all over the world, Marcott pres-



In this Aug. 29, 1938 file photo, smoke rises from smokestacks at Skoda's main foundry in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. Associated Press

ents the longest continuous record of Earth's average temperature. One of his co-authors last year used the same method to look even farther back. This study fills in the crucial post-ice age time during early human civilization.

Marcott's data indicates that it took 4,000 years for the world to warm about 1.25 degrees from the end of the ice age to about 7,000 years ago. The same fossil-based data suggest a similar level of warming occurring in just one generation: from the 1920s to the 1940s. Actual thermometer records don't show the rise from the 1920s to the 1940s was quite that big and Marcott said for such recent time periods it is better to use actual thermometer readings than his proxies.

Before this study, continuous temperature record reconstruction only went

back about 2,000 years. The temperature trend produces a line shaped like a "hockey stick" with a sudden spike after what had been a fairly steady line. That data came from tree rings, ice cores and lake sediments.

Marcott wanted to go farther back, to the end of the last ice age in more detail by using the same marine fossil method his colleague used. That period also coincides with a "really important time for the history of our planet," said Smithsonian Institution research anthropologist Torben Rick. That's the time when people started to first domesticate animals and start agriculture, which is connected to the end of the

ice age.

Marcott's research finds the climate had been gently warming out of the ice age with a slow cooling that started about 6,000 years ago.

Then the cooling reversed with a vengeance.

The study shows the recent heat spike "has no precedent as far back as we can go with any confidence, 11,000 years arguably," said Pennsylvania State University professor Michael Mann, who wrote the original hockey stick study but wasn't part of this research.

He said scientists may have to go back 125,000 years to find warmer temperatures potentially rivaling today's. However, another outside

scientist, Jeff Severinghaus of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography thinks temperatures may have been notably warmer just 12,000 years ago, at least in Greenland based on research by some of his colleagues.

Several outside scientists praised the methods Marcott used, but said it might be a bit too oriented toward the Northern Hemisphere.

Marcott said the general downward trend of temperatures that reversed 100 years ago seemed to indicate the Earth was heading either toward another ice age or little ice age from about 1550 to 1850. Or it was continuing to cool naturally until greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels changed everything.

The reason the globe warmed after the ice age and then started cooling about 6,000 years ago has to do with the tilt of the Earth and its distance from the sun, said Marcott and Severinghaus. Distance and angle in the summer matter because of heat absorption and reflection and ground cover.

"We have, through human emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases, indefinitely delayed the onset of the next ice age and are now heading into an unknown future where humans control the thermostat of the planet," said Katharine Hayhoe, an atmospheric scientist at Texas Tech University, responding in an email. □

## Indonesian volcano spews ash into sky; no one hurt

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)** — Indonesia scientists say they are closely monitoring a smoking volcano on Java island, urging villagers and tourists to stay off the mountain's slope.

Government volcanologist Hendra Gunawan said Thursday that Mount Tangkuban Perahu in West Java province shot up smoke

and ash nearly 500 meters (1,640 feet) into the air since Monday, and was placed at the second-highest alert level.

It does not send debris or lava far down its slopes and nearby towns and villages were in no danger, but authorities warned tourists off limit its danger zone of 1.5 kilometers (1

mile) from the crater, citing a build up of poison gas inside the peaks.

The 2,084 meter (6,837 feet)-high mountain is one of Java's most popular tourist attractions where people can hike to the edge of the crater to view boiling mud up close. It last erupted in 1983. □

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# Disney, Sam Raimi gamble on return trip to Oz

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Returning to the mystical land of "The Wizard of Oz" took more than 70 years and several hundred millions dollars.

Disney releases its highly anticipated prequel to

the 1939 movie classic on Friday. Directed by Sam Raimi, "Oz the Great and Powerful" explores the origins of the wizard (James Franco) and the witches (Mila Kunis, Michelle Williams and Rachel Weisz) in a three-dimensional Oz. The \$200 million produc-

## Lucas says 'Star Wars' trio returning for new film



This April 7, 2011 file photo shows Carrie Fisher at the 2011 NewNowNext Awards in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — It appears the Force is still strong with Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher.

In an interview posted online Thursday, George Lucas said the trio from the original "Star Wars" trilogy will reprise their iconic roles of Hans Solo, Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia in the new "Star Wars" film.

Lucas told Bloomberg Businessweek that all three were signed for the new "Episode VII" film in advance of Lucasfilm's \$4 billion purchase by Disney.

"We had already signed Mark and Carrie and Harrison — or were pretty much in the final stages of negotiation," Lucas said.

He added: "Maybe I'm not supposed to say that. I think they want to announce that with some big whoop-de-do."

In an interview posted Wednesday with Florida's Palm Beach Illustrated, Fisher said that she'll be coming back as Princess Leia.

Disney's Lucasfilm was coy in response. In a statement, a spokesperson for the company said, "George couldn't say whether they were signed or not and neither can we. As Yoda said, 'Always in motion is the future.' Stay tuned."

The Walt Disney Co. is producing a new "Star Wars" trilogy to take place after Lucas' original three space epics. J.J. Abrams is directing the first film. The 70-year-old Ford, the 61-year-old Hamill and the 56-year-old Fisher are expected to play smaller, supporting roles.

A representative for Ford declined to comment. Hamill's representatives didn't immediately return requests for comment. □



In this Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013 file photo, actor James Franco, left, and director Sam Raimi pose for portraits at the "Oz The Great and Powerful" press junket at the Langham Huntington Hotel, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

tion, not counting another \$100 million in estimated marketing costs, is a huge gamble for everyone involved, considering "The Wizard of Oz" is among the most enduring and beloved films of all time. Even Raimi, director of the first three "Spider-Man" movies, described the project as "daunting."

The risk is compounded by a general box-office slump and a poor showing for last weekend's \$200 million big-screen take on another popular tale, "Jack the Giant Slayer," based on "Jack and the Beanstalk."

"The plus side is that there's such incredible awareness of 'The Wizard of Oz' that it's going to translate into a mammoth opening weekend for 'Oz the Great and Powerful,'" said Dave Karger, chief correspondent for Fandango.com. "The danger is that many people's natural tendency will be to compare this to 'The Wizard of Oz,' and there's no film that will ever live up to that."

According to a survey done by the site, nearly all those buying tickets for the new "Oz" film have seen the original, and the film is far and away the most popular of the week, com-

prising almost 80 percent of tickets sold.

Franco has loved the world created by L. Frank Baum since he first saw the 1939 movie on TV as a kid. It inspired him to read all of Baum's books, which led him to other fantasy fare such as "Alice in Wonderland" and the works of J. R. R. Tolkien. But the notion of revisiting the Land of Oz with an A-list director wasn't enough to lure Franco to the leading role. "I already had a lot of faith in the movie because Sam was attached, but as an Oz fan, I wanted to be sure that the approach was sound," the actor said. "They very smartly did not just do a boy version of Dorothy and have the same trip through Oz."

For one, Franco notes the wizard is a con man and his trip through Oz is very different than Dorothy's was. "He'll be getting into awkward situations, basically kind of bouncing off of Oz in ways that Dorothy didn't," the actor said.

While the new "Oz" has plenty of familiar elements — the yellow brick road, Emerald City, witches, munchkins (now multi-ethnic) — "the ways they're interacting with the pro-

tagonist (are) completely different," Franco said.

As the film opens in sepia-toned 1905 Kansas, Franco's Oscar Diggs is a carnival magician who dreams of fame and fortune at any cost. When a twister whisks him to a fantastical land bearing his stage name — Oz — whose inhabitants believe him to be a wizard sent to save them, he can't believe his luck. Power and riches are practically his for the taking. But first, he faces three witches, none of whom are exactly as they seem. Oz befriends a few locals, including a flying monkey (Zach Braff) and a china doll (Joey King), and eventually makes the plight of the people of Oz his own.

Like Franco, Raimi grew up loving the original "Oz" film. "I remember it being the scariest movie I'd ever seen in my life and also the most touching movie, the saddest, sweetest thing I'd ever seen," he said. "It was that spirit of sweetness, of characters becoming complete by the end of the story — that was the most powerful thing I took away from the 1939 classic and the thing we tried collectively to put in our picture." □





In this Jan. 11, 2011 file photo, cast member Ashton Kutcher, left, and Demi Moore arrive at the premiere "No Strings Attached" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

## Demi Moore seeks spousal support from Ashton Kutcher

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Demi Moore is seeking spousal support from estranged husband Ashton Kutcher. The actress states in a court filing Thursday that she also wants the "Two and a Half Men" star to pay her attorney's fees in the divorce proceedings. Kutcher filed for divorce in December, more than a year after Moore announced the marriage was over. Kutcher didn't take a position in his filings

on whether he should pay Moore any spousal support. The couple was married in September 2005, and they have no children together. Kutcher didn't specify when the couple separated, but Moore listed Nov. 17, 2011, as the breakup date. Moore publicly announced the couple's breakup that day, but until Thursday had not filed any divorce paperwork. □

## WWE says William Moody, aka Paul Bearer, has died

**DAN GELSTON**  
**AP Sports Writer**

William Moody, better known to pro wrestling fans as Paul Bearer, the pasty-faced, urn-carrying manager for performers The Undertaker and Kane, has died, the WWE said. He was 58. A spokesman for the wrestling company said Moody's family notified the WWE of his death on Tuesday. No cause was released. After stints in various independent wrestling promotions, Moody joined the

WWE in 1990 and quickly became associated with The Undertaker, a character who claimed he was undead and boasted of mystical powers. The WWE said in a statement that Moody, "went on to become a memorable part of WWE over the course of the next 20 years." In the WWE plotline, Paul Bearer later managed Undertaker's on-screen half-brother Kane. He also managed the bad-guy character Mick "Mankind" Foley. □

## David Gregory: Pressing guests on 'Meet the Press'



This Feb. 24, 2013 photo released by NBC News shows moderator David Gregory on the set of "Meet the Press," in Washington.

Associated Press

**FRAZIER MOORE**  
**AP Television Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — You can only imagine the rush David Gregory felt when his "Meet the Press" guest, Vice President Joe Biden, took a cue from him and blurted out some history. Midway through that memorable interview last May, Biden seized the bait when Gregory happened to ask his position on gay marriage. "Once he mentioned the societal impact of 'Will & Grace,'" says Gregory, "I knew we were off to the races." Biden surprised everyone (maybe even himself) by declaring he was "absolutely comfortable" with same-sex married couples enjoying the same rights as heterosexual married couples, thus inadvertently prodding President Barack Obama to publicly affirm his own support for same-sex unions days later. That kind of Beltway Booyah moment helps account for why Gregory loves hosting "Meet the Press," NBC's venerable Sunday morning public-affairs program he took over four years ago (and where he recently accepted what the network calls its "long-term commitment" for his services).

"This is an agenda-setting program," says Gregory. "What happens on 'Meet the Press' can definitely make news and frame the debate." But it isn't just the bombshells that give Gregory a kick. On "Meet the Press" (check local listings) he also experiences the occasional interview that, as he describes it, seems akin to a dream-state. Like the recent visit by former Secretary of State Colin Powell. "I was so engaged in talking to him," says Gregory, "that I wasn't thinking about the fact that we were on television, in the middle of the show. That's a pretty great feeling." But such interrogatory rapture isn't the norm, he notes during a chat not long ago at NBC's New York headquarters. "I sometimes have a sense that, 'Wow, I'm not getting anything here, so how hard do I want to drill into this stone before I move on and try something slightly different?'" "Above all," he stresses, "the program needs to be a civil forum." It generally is — even when Gregory faced National Rifle Association President Wayne LaPierre not long after the shootings in Newtown, Conn.

That interview "got pretty aggressive on both ends," Gregory acknowledges. And in the heated atmosphere of the gun-control debate, this interview's substance was largely upstaged by a prop Gregory pulled out in the course of his questioning: a high-capacity ammunition magazine, the possession of which turned out to be against local gun laws. (After an investigation by the District of Columbia's Office of the Attorney General, prosecutors said in January that Gregory wouldn't face charges. He now says he is legally prohibited from commenting.) But during the LaPierre exchange, "I got to ask questions that I thought were important to really test him and push him," says Gregory, "and I think he felt like he was able to push back and say what he wanted to say. I think that's important." (LaPierre did not respond to requests for his opinion of the meeting.) The 42-year-old Gregory was named "Meet the Press" moderator in December 2008, a few months after the sudden death of Tim Russert, a dogged interviewer and, after 17 years as host of the program, a TV institution in his own right. □



# Repent, Dick Cheney



MAUREEN DOWD  
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**WASHINGTON** — Dick Cheney certainly gives certainty a black eye.

In a documentary soon to appear on Showtime, "The World According to Dick Cheney," America's most powerful and destructive vice president woos history by growling yet again that he was right and everyone else was wrong.

R.J. Cutler, who has done documentaries on the Clinton campaign war room and Anna Win-tour's Vogue war paint room, now chronicles Cheney's war boom.

"If I had to do it over again," the 72-year-old says chillingly of his reign of error, "I'd do it over in a minute."

Cheney, who came from a family of Wyoming Democrats, says his conservative bent was strengthened watching the anti-Vietnam War protests at the University of Wisconsin, where he was pursuing a doctorate and dodging the draft.

"I can remember the mime troupe meeting there and the guys that ran around in white sheets with the entrails of pigs, dripping blood," he said. Maybe if he'd paid more attention to the actual war, conducted with a phony casus belli in a country where we did not understand the culture, he wouldn't have propelled America into two more Vietnams.

The documentary doesn't get to the dark heart of the matter about the man with the new heart.

Did he change, after the shock to his body of so many heart procedures and the shock to his mind of 9/11? Or was he the same person, patiently playing the courtier, once code-named "Backseat" by the Secret Service, until he found the perfect oblivious frontman who would allow him to unleash his hare-brained, dictatorial impulses?

Talking to Cutler in his deep headmaster's monotone, Cheney dispenses with the fig leaf of "we." He no longer feigns deference to W., whom he now disdains for favoring Condi over him in the second term and for not pardoning "Cheney's Cheney," Scooter Libby. "I had a job to do," he said.

Continuing: "I got on the telephone with the president, who was in Florida, and told him not to be at one location where we could both be taken out." Cheney kept W. flying aimlessly in the air on 9/11 while he and Lynn left on a helicopter for a secure

undisclosed location, leaving Washington in a bleak, scared silence, with no one reassuring the nation in those first terrifying hours.

"I gave the instructions that we'd authorize our pilots to take it out," he says, referring to the jet headed to Washington that crashed in a Pennsylvania field. He adds: "After I'd given the order, it was pretty quiet. Everybody had heard it, and it was obviously a significant moment."

This guy makes Al Haig look like a shrinking violet.

When they testified together before the 9/11 Commission, W. and Cheney kept up a pretense that in a previous call, the president had authorized the vice president to give a shoot-down order if needed. But the commission found "no documentary evidence for this call."

In his memoir, W. described feeling "blindsided" again and again. In this film, the blinder is the eminence grise who was supposed to shore up the untested president. The documentary reveals the lingo lengths that Cheney went to in order to manipulate the unprepared junior Bush. Vice had learned turf fighting from a maniacal master of the art, his mentor Donald Rumsfeld.

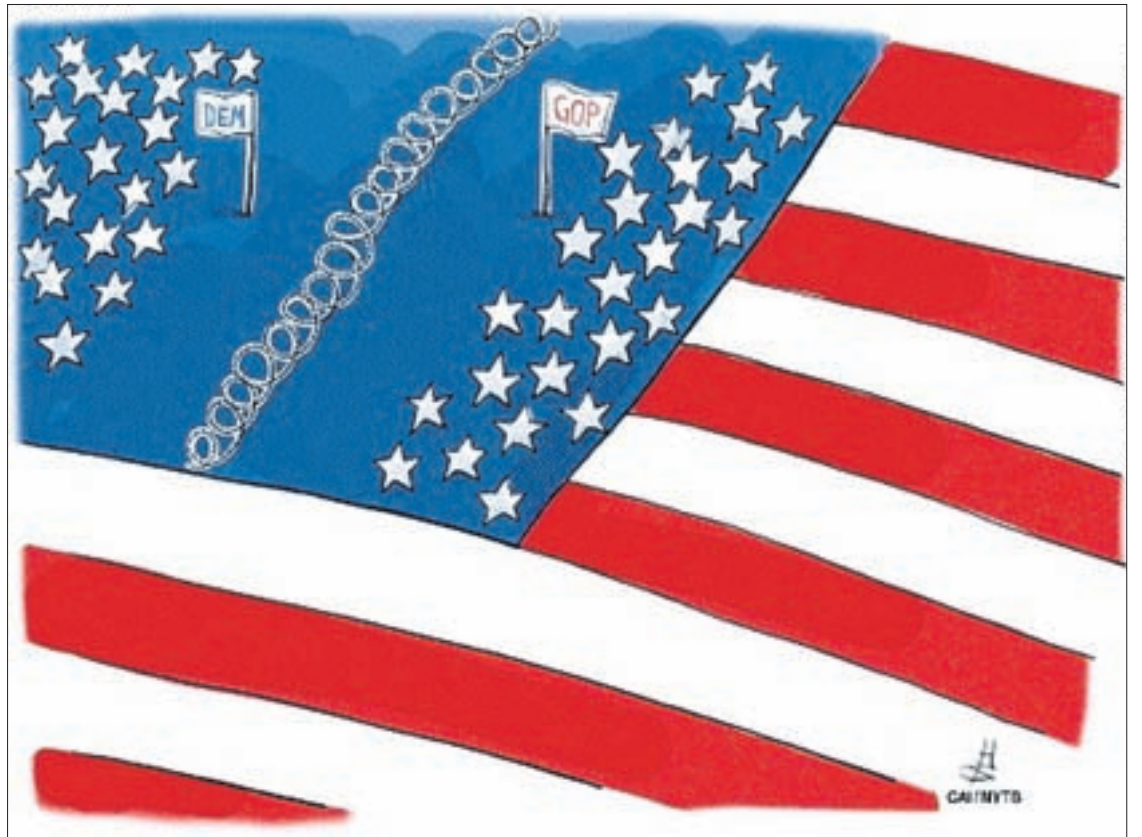
When he was supposed to be vetting vice presidential candidates, Cheney was actually demanding so much material from them that there was always something to pick on. He filled W.'s head with stories about conflicts between presidents and vice presidents sparked by the vice president's ambition, while protesting that he himself did not want the job. In an unorthodox move, he ran the transition, hiring all his people, including Bush senior's nemesis, Rummy, and sloughing off the Friends of George; then he gave himself an all-access pass. He was always goosing up W.'s insecurities so he could take advantage of them. To make his crazy and appallingly costly detour from Osama to Saddam, and cherry-pick his fake case for invading Iraq, he played on W.'s fear of being lampooned as a wimp, as his father had been. But after Vice kept W. out of the loop on the Justice Department's rebellion against Cheney's illegal warrantless domestic spying program, the relationship was ruptured. It was too late to rein in the feverish vice president, except to tell him he couldn't bomb a nuclear plant in the Syrian desert.

"Condi was on the wrong side of all those issues," Cheney rumbled to Cutler.

Cheney still hearts waterboarding. "Are you going to trade the lives of a number of people because you want to preserve your honor?" he asked, his voice dripping with contempt.

"I don't lie awake at night thinking, gee, what are they going to say about me?" he sums up.

They're going to say you were a misguided powermonger who, in a paranoid spasm, led this nation into an unthinkable calamity. Sleep on that. □



## The Professors' Big Stage



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN  
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I just spent the last two days at a great conference convened by MIT and Harvard on "Online Learning and the Future of Residential Education" — aka "How can colleges charge \$50,000 a year if my kid can learn it all free from massive open online courses?" You may think this MOOCs revolution is hyped, but my driver in Boston disagrees. You see, I was picked up at Logan Airport by my old friend Michael Sandel, who teaches the famous Socratic, 1,000-student "Justice" course at Harvard, which is launching March 12 as the first humanities offering on the MIT-Harvard edX online learning platform. When he met me at the airport I saw he was wearing some very colorful sneakers. "Where did you get those?" I asked. Well, Sandel explained, he had recently been in South Korea, where his Justice course has been translated into Korean and shown on national television. It has made him such a popular figure there that the Koreans asked him to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at a professional baseball game — and gave him the colored shoes to boot! Yes, a Harvard philosopher was asked to throw out the first pitch in Korea because so many fans enjoy the way he helps them think through big moral dilemmas.

Sandel had just lectured in Seoul in an outdoor amphitheater to 14,000 people, with audience participation. His online Justice lectures, with Chinese subtitles, have already had more than 20

million views on Chinese websites, which prompted the China Daily to note that "Sandel has the kind of popularity in China usually reserved for Hollywood movie stars and NBA players."

OK, not every professor will develop a global following, but the MOOCs revolution, which will go through many growing pains, is here and is real. These were my key take-aways from the conference: Institutions of higher learning must move, as the historian Walter Russell Mead puts it, from a model of "time served" to a model of "stuff learned." Because increasingly the world does not care what you know. Everything is on Google. The world only cares, and will only pay for, what you can do with what you know. And therefore it will not pay for a C+ in chemistry, just because your state college considers that a passing grade and was willing to give you a diploma that says so. We're moving to a more competency-based world where there will be less interest in how you acquired the competency — in an online course, at a four-year-college or in a company-administered class — and more demand to prove that you mastered the competency. Therefore, we have to get beyond the current system of information and delivery — the professorial "sage on the stage" and students taking notes, followed by a superficial assessment, to one in which students are asked and empowered to master more basic material online at their own pace, and the classroom becomes a place where the application of that knowledge can be honed through lab experiments and discussions with the professor. There seemed to be a strong consensus that this "blended model" combining online lectures with a teacher-led classroom experience was the ideal. Last fall, San Jose State used the online lectures and interactive exercises of MIT's introductory online Circuits and Electronics course. Students would watch

the MIT lectures and do the exercises at home, and then come to class, where the first 15 minutes were reserved for questions and answers with the San Jose State professor, and the last 45 were devoted to problem solving and discussion. Preliminary numbers indicate that those passing the class went from nearly 60 percent to about 90 percent. And since this course was the first step to a degree in science and technology, it meant that one-third more students potentially moved on toward a degree and career in that field.

We demand that plumbers and kindergarten teachers be certified to do what they do, but there is no requirement that college professors know how to teach. No more. The world of MOOCs is creating a competition that will force every professor to improve his or her pedagogy or face an online competitor.

Bottom line: There is still huge value in the residential college experience and the teacher-student and student-student interactions it facilitates. But to thrive, universities will have to nurture even more of those unique experiences while blending in technology to improve education outcomes in measurable ways at lower costs. We still need more research on what works, but standing still is not an option. Clayton Christensen, the Harvard Business School professor and expert on disruptive innovation, gave a compelling talk about how much today's traditional university has in common with General Motors of the 1960s, just before Toyota used a technology breakthrough to come from nowhere and topple GM. Christensen noted Harvard Business School doesn't teach entry-level accounting anymore, because there is a professor out at Brigham Young University whose online accounting course "is just so good" that Harvard students use that instead. When outstanding becomes so easily available, average is over. □



# Maison Louis Vuitton and publisher Gallimard launch "The Trunk"



along with more recent tales of society life (for a special department continues the poetic tradition of collecting articles about trunks, as well as private letters containing unusual anecdotes, and noteworthy order forms), they spirit us away on a journey through time and imagination.

## A UNIQUE CREATIVE PROCESS

One by one, these authors came to tea at the family home in Asnières before being led into the small room where Gaston-Louis Vuitton used to work. There, by the light of the same small lamp that lit the desk where these relics of the past still lie, they could immerse themselves in this world of leather and wood, yellowed paper and faded old photographs featuring Ernest Hemingway alongside Sacha Guitry and the Mona Lisa, whose now forgotten adventures made the headlines or inside pages of newspapers that have long since disappeared. These authors have brought them back to life. Each story starts out inside a trunk before developing

into a full-blown literary journey –though the odd one might begin with a wonderful journey and end up inside a trunk... complete with bloodstains.

Published by Les Éditions Gallimard in the "Hors série Littérature" collection, this book is available in an illustrated deluxe edition on sale in select Louis Vuitton stores. This collectors' edition has been printed on pure thread 110g vellum paper by Darantière in Quetigny and traditionally bound in leather by Ateliers Babouot in Lagny-sur-Marne, France. □



Philippe Jaenada, Yann Moix, Véronique Ovaldé, and Bruno de Stabenrath. Gaston-Louis Vuitton had a secret passion. He would comb the international press for articles about the object that encapsulated the fantasies of his time: the trunk. For decades these very cuttings have lain dormant in a trunk. The paper these clippings are printed on has yellowed. The ink has gone a touch dry. The period notebooks are filled with Gaston-Louis Vuitton's recognizable handwriting, meticulously recording the names of the newspapers and the date of publication.

He filed them by subject. All the lost trunks are in one place, bloodstained trunks in another. Cases involving sex, spies, princesses, grand hotels, steam trains and more, a stream of images. For this special edition, Louis Vuitton opened the trunk full of memories to the finest living French authors, whose interests vary from travel to crime, to magic or inventions. Sensitive to the old-fashioned charms of the Belle Époque and the more glamorous post-war years,

**ORANJESTAD/PARIS** - Louis Vuitton and French publisher Gallimard have teamed up to release The Trunk, an anthology of short stories presented as a literary game. For over a century, the Louis Vuitton family home in Asnières has been filled with the whispering of extraordinary stories of trunks, luggage and travel. In the early 1900s, Gaston-Louis Vuitton, the third Vuitton family member to build the famous trunk-maker's reputation, and a passionate collector, constituted fabulous archives.

## ELEVEN WRITERS

Forty years later, 11 French writers have been given privileged access to this treasure. They have explored old photographs, newspaper cuttings, anecdotes and outrageous examples of customer relations. Here the leading Parisian writers of our time sing the praises of trunks and their travels. These lucky time travelers are: Éliette Abécassis, Fabienne Berthaud, Marie Darrieussecq, Virginie Despentes, Nicolas d'Estienne d'Orves, Patrick Eudeline, David Foenkinos,

